

# Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

## Chapter 2651

---- Chapter 2651 Milo clapped, his eyes lighting up with approval. "Excellent! That's exactly what I've been waiting to hear! Right now, my fellow elders, who are my seniors and juniors, are discussing how to first eliminate the forces the Owens family has inserted into this mess. With your family's elite troops joining us, our chances just got a whole lot better. Andrew's heart stirred He asked casually, "Mr. Avila, I've heard that the Advanced Medical Institute is currently split into two factions. One side is with the Grand Elder, backed by the Owens family.

The other side supports Koda Dawson, the previous director's first disciple. So which side are you on? Or rather, which side do you support?" The moment those words left his mouth, Milo's expression turned sour. He was clearly displeased. Beneath his irritation, there was a hint of resentment mixed with envy. Jerome smiled and chimed in, "Milo, Mr. Lloyd is new here and doesn't know the situation yet, so don't take it personally. Mr. Lloyd, let me explain this to you. Yes, the Advanced Medical Institute is currently caught in a heated battle between these two. factions.

But Milo isn't the type to jump on anyone's bandwagon." ---- He explained, "His principles, his conscience, and his loyalty to the Institute's founding ancestors have led him to refuse both sides. Instead, he's established himself as the leader of a third faction. Milo's goal is to eliminate both Koda, that traitorous bastard, and the Grand Elder's corrupt alliance with the Owens family!" Milo looked very pleased as he declared firmly, "Exactly, Mr. Lloyd, that's exactly how I see things. Koda, that bastard, murdered our previous director. And Corbin, the Grand Elder? This chapter is updated by

None of us ever imagined he'd have designs on becoming head of the Institute himself. Once Lorenzo got his hooks into him, he completely lost his way." Milo continued, "Even though I'm only the Sixth Elder of the Advanced Medical Institute and don't have much power, I still aim to protect the Institute's legacy. My goal is to wipe out the people trying to ruin it. Andrew chuckled as he asked, "So if you end up winning in the end, that means you'll lead the institute, right?" Milo glared at him. "Nonsense.

I only want to uphold justice and stop these schemers, and I never coveted the position." Andrew simply stared at him without responding. After showing off for a bit, Milo cleared his throat and lowered ---- his voice. "Of course, we can't just sacrifice ourselves for nothing. So rest assured, Mr. Lloyd. Once both of these factions are dealt with, if I manage to rise to, say, the Deputy Director or something like that, you and Jerome will be the first ones I credit for their contributions." Andrew smiled warmly. "Well then, thank you for your generous consideration, Mr. Avila.

I'm just curious, though. If you take the position of Deputy Director, who would be qualified to fill the main seat? Based on merit and prestige, you'd be the obvious choice by then. I think you'd have to be the Director; even Deputy wouldn't be enough." Milo laughed heartily. "Oh no, that would never do! But if everything settles down and you all feel that way, then I certainly wouldn't want to disappoint everyone's expectations." Andrew smiled knowingly, already reaching his conclusion. He thought Milo was just a power-hungry fool who did not know his place.

It was ridiculous that Milo wanted to claim the Director's title. Still, someone this simple-minded was useful for Andrew's current plans. Even so, he knew he still needed to meet Koda personally. Night soon fell. Milo arranged for someone to take Andrew and ---- Eric to the guest rooms to rest. Tomorrow morning would bring the meeting between Koda and Corbin. If they could not reach an agreement this time, bloodshed would be inevitable. Andrew could not help but frown because he knew time was running out.

The moonlight over the Advanced Medical Institute shone brightly, bathing the entire valley in a silvery white glow. From his vantage point, Andrew gazed down at the Institute's grounds, which looked like a peaceful sanctuary, radiating tranquility and harmony. Suddenly, a soft knocking came from the door. Andrew still stood by the window, not turning around as he said with a smile, "Mr. Thornton, you're here." Jerome's voice came from behind him. "Andy, circumstances forced me to play along with you earlier. Now I'd like to have a proper conversation with you about our next move.

I don't think Milo is our best option. If we bet everything on him, we'll lose it all."

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## Chapter 2652

---- Chapter 2652 Andrew turned around with a smile and said, "But aren't you and Mr. Avila old acquaintances? And from the way it looked, the two of you seemed pretty close." Jerome shook his head and replied, "We are old acquaintances. Back when I was the leader of the Southern Martial Union, Milo went out of his way to curry favor with me. But to say we have a good relationship? That would be stretching the truth." Jerome continued, "Most importantly, he's just an incompetent guy who can't be trusted with anything serious. Discover more novels at

And you're not here at the Advanced Medical Institute just to watch the chaos, are you?" Andrew laughed loudly and said, "Mr. Thornton, have a seat. You really get me. I'm here for one thing only: to take the Institute's alchemists." Jerome froze for a moment,

then nodded in understanding. "I see. Andy, you've got quite an appetite there. Right now, the Advanced Medical Institute is clearly done for. If we're talking about what's actually valuable here, there are only two things. "First, the seat as the director. Whoever controls that becomes a major power in the ancient sect world.

Second, the manpower, specifically, the large number of mid-grade alchemists. You've --- got a sharp eye, I'll give you that." Andrew nodded solemnly. "My goal here is to take away every alchemist I possibly can. But Mr. Thornton, you must know how difficult that's going to be. This isn't like buying merchandise where the highest bidder wins. As long as the Advanced Medical Institute still exists and hasn't completely collapsed, these alchemists won't be willing to leave their home.

"Second, even if the Institute does fall apart, the battle between Corbin and Koda will inevitably result in massive casualties. These fragile alchemists can't withstand that kind of chaos. So what's your take on this? Any advice you can share with me?" Jerome chuckled and shook his head with a wry smile. "Calling it 'advice' would be going too far. Andy, you're one of the sharpest minds I know. I know my limits... I'm not about to try teaching you tricks. I'm sure you already have a decision and a plan of action." Andrew smiled. "Well, I do have some ideas forming.

Milo's useless, so I don't want to waste my energy on him. I want to make contact with Koda and use him to gain control of the Advanced Medical Institute. "Then, in the end, I'll either sideline Koda or eliminate him directly. After that, we'll put a puppet leader in place. That way, everything in the Advanced Medical Institute will be right in the palm of our hands." ---- Jerome sat stunned for a long moment, then nodded with genuine admiration. "Bold move, and brilliant strategy too. I thought you might exploit the chaos or wait on the sidelines to reap the benefits.

I never imagined you would choose to ally with someone as dangerous as Koda." He warned, "Koda is incredibly strong, standing at the peak of the martial saint level. Andy, that final step where you sideline or kill him is going to carry some serious risk." Andrew's expression remained calm. "Three days. I just need three more days, and I'll be able to take down Koda single-handedly. Of course, if the situation changes, I'll need you to lend me a hand, and with Eric joining us, the three of us together, even God himself couldn't save Koda." Jerome fell into silence.

After a long pause, he stared intently at Andrew, studying him carefully before asking, "Has your combat power already reached the level to match that of a martial emperor?"

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## Chapter 2653

---- Chapter 2653 Andrew chuckled, not hiding anything as he said, "I'm getting there. I can now handle most ordinary martial emperors. However, the seal on my energy core is still there, so I haven't officially stepped into the martial emperor realm yet in terms of actual cultivation level." Jerome exhaled deeply and said with admiration, "You're truly a prodigy among prodigies. As the leader of the Southern Martial Union, I've seen countless talented individuals. But compared to you, Andy, they're all just ordinary. A genius is nothing compared to you."

"I made the right choice." His choice, naturally, referred to following Andrew. Andrew nodded. "In that case, you should rest. Tomorrow morning, we'll watch the negotiations between Corbin and Koda first. Then, I'll find an opportunity to make contact with Koda." Jerome agreed. "Good, let's do that. Andy, you should get some rest, too." With that, he left Andrew's room. Andrew lifted his hand, and the greatsword resting by the bed flew straight into his palm.

Feeling the cold steel of the hilt, he murmured, "Buddy, looks like we're going to fight side by side ---- again." Godslayer sent a pulse of excitement back into his mind. Andrew chuckled, closed the window, and prepared to rest. Yet a sudden pure-white silhouette appeared in his line of sight. Down below, under the moonlight, the Institute's lakeside garden looked breathtakingly beautiful. The night was completely still. A man and a woman stepped onto the little bridge for a late-night date. Even though they were far away, Andrew instantly recognized the woman by her outline and posture.

It was Mikayla, the heiress of the Owens family and Lorenzo's daughter. Andrew had not expected Mikayla to be at the Advanced Medical Institute as well. Moreover, from the looks of it, that man and woman were getting close, with the man seemingly pulling the woman into his embrace. Andrew smiled coldly, grabbed Godslayer, and leaped down from the window. Then, he moved quickly, soon arriving at a corner of the garden. The couple was now nestled together at the head of a small bridge in the garden. From Andrew's angle, he could see their faces clearly and hear every word they said.

---- "Lennox, won't sneaking out this late cause you trouble?" "Don't worry, there won't be any issues. As the most outstanding disciple of the Advanced Medical Institute's third generation, I can slip out at night without anyone noticing unless some old geezer is specifically watching me." "That's a relief then. The Advanced Medical Institute is so dangerous right now... It's so hard to get some alone time with you, Lennox." "Mikayla... are you saying you missed me? You... really missed me?" Lennox Easton grew excited, stammering as he looked at the woman.

Mikayla lifted her head, her eyes shimmering as she gazed at him adoringly. "Idiot! I'm willing to sneak out at night, ignoring what others might think and risking my reputation. If that's not missing you, what is? If you can't even see that, Lennox, you're really

dense." Lennox immediately pulled Mikayla tighter into his embrace, trembling as he spoke. "Mikayla, I swear, in this lifetime, I'll marry no one but you. For the rest of my life, I'll only be good to you. Besides you, nothing else matters, not even the whole world. Hearing this, Andrew, hiding behind the bushes, nearly gagged. UPDATE FROM

---- The guy was unbelievably mushy. Even worse, Andrew suspected he was just another hopeless simp Andrew knew exactly what kind of person Mikayla was. She was the ultimate manipulator, a total player. And judging from how Easton poured his whole heart out, he had clearly fallen for her hard.

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## Chapter 2654

---- Chapter 2654 Mikayla's beautiful face flushed as she lowered her head and leaned gently against Lennox's chest. In a soft voice, she asked, "Lennox, would you really give up anything for me and do anything I asked?" Andrew's heart tightened. The fox finally showed her true colors. He already knew almost exactly what she was planning, because this was classic Mikayla using some poor lovestruck fool to get what she wanted. Sure enough, Lennox immediately swore, "Mikayla, I told you, I'm willing to do anything for you. Just tell me what you want! But before that... New NOVEL chapters are published on

Mikayla, I have a small request... if you can give me a little something first." As he spoke, Lennox gently lifted Mikayla's chin and leaned in to kiss her lips. Mikayla dodged away, looking utterly bashful. "Lennox, I'm shy. Oh, come on... Let's not rush. Didn't we already talk about this? Once you help me take care of everything, the two of us will be together as a couple. My father will personally officiate our wedding ceremony." Rejected, Lennox looked disappointed and could not help licking his lips. Then, he laughed awkwardly, "Alright, I'll hold myself ---- back a bit longer.

But Mikayla, you'd better remember what you said. After I help you accomplish what you want, you have to marry me. When that happens, I'm going to make you serve me all night long.. "No, one night won't be enough. At least three nights. Mikayla, I love you so much. You won't think I'm being too insatiable, will you?" Lennox became anxious again. Mikayla blushed and said, "Of course not. Lennox, I'd be happy to serve a great hero like you every single night." Andrew could not take it anymore and made a slight gagging noise from behind the bushes.

Mikayla's shy expression suddenly turned cold, and she glared sharply toward his spot. Lennox asked curiously, "What's wrong, Mikayla?" Mikayla pushed him away and strode

over to the bushes where Andrew was hiding. However, when she looked, there was nothing there. Frowning, she returned to Lennox. She forced a smile and said, "It's nothing, Lennox. I was just worried someone might be eavesdropping on us." ---- Lennox said proudly, "Relax. Nothing around here escapes my senses. Don't forget, I'm a Martial Saint level expert." Mikayla nodded repeatedly. "Of course.

Lennox, you're the most amazing. Even in Chetvine, few can compare to you." Lennox beamed with pride. "Mikayla, what exactly do you need me to do? Can you tell me now? I just want to quickly fulfill your request and then marry you in a grand ceremony. That way, during the day you'll be my elegant wife, and at night, you'll be my personal little slut. Mikayla, you're fine with that, right?" Mikayla's expression stiffened. Andrew clearly saw anger and disgust flash through her eyes. Yet, she had to force a sweet smile and continue to tolerate Lennox's vulgar jokes.

"Sure, Lennox, you're such a bad boy, always teasing me. But it's getting late tonight. You should head back first. Tomorrow, after the negotiations between Grand Elder and that annoying Koda are over, I'll tell you what I need." Lennox snorted coldly. "Don't worry. My father will definitely kill that bastard Koda with his own hands." The two lingered together for a while longer before Lennox reluctantly disappeared toward the other end. ---- Mikayla stood there, suddenly brushing off her clothes. She muttered irritably, "Disgusting creep... worthless trash. Gross!

I'm throwing these clothes away. But he's still useful, so I'll have to keep him hooked." As she spoke, she turned and headed toward the garden exit. After a few steps, she suddenly looked back and said coldly, "Come out. I already see you!" By now, Andrew had already moved silently and effortlessly to the other end of the stone bridge where the couple had been standing. Like a bat in the night, he hung upside down under the bridge without making a sound. Mikayla's bluff did not faze Andrew at all; his eyes remained ice- cold. She snarled from above, 'Not coming out? Fine.

Don't blame me for being rude." She darted forward, her movement so fast it left afterimages. Within seconds, she checked every corner around the bridge. However, she found nothing, not even a shadow. Mikayla finally gave up, lowering her head and quickly leaving while muttering, "Did I really just hear things earlier? This Advanced Medical Institute is so creepy and gloomy. I hope Dad wraps everything up quickly so we can return to Chetvine.

I don't ---- want to stay here another moment, especially having to deal with Corbin's perverted idiot son around." Eventually, she disappeared into the distance. Andrew used his arms to flip himself smoothly up onto the bridge. A faint sneer tugged at his mouth. Mikayla's little tricks would never fool him. He knew better than anyone how cautious and vicious she was. If she suspected something, she would tear the whole garden apart looking for answers. That was why he did not hide behind another tree or wall after leaving the bushes.



Doing so would have gotten him caught immediately when she went searching like a maniac. Instead, he hid in the one place she would never expect: directly beneath her feet. Mikayla could be paranoid, but even she would not think he would hide under the bridge. He mumbled, "Looks like this lustful fool is Corbin's son. What does Mikayla want to use Lennox for?" Andrew fell deep into thought. Mikayla had been one step away from revealing her plans. However, she was indeed cunning. She did not say anything and instead sent Lennox away first.

Andrew did not know if Mikayla was being extra cautious or if his earlier slip-up had spooked her. Either way, Andrew did not ---- care, Mikayla and Lorenzo had their sights set on the Advanced Medical Institute; that much was obvious. So, all Andrew had to do was to make sure they failed.

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## Chapter 2655

---- Chapter 2655 Dawn broke, and it was Andrew's second day at the Advanced Medical Institute. Early that morning, the entire institute was already buzzing. Hundreds of disciples rushed toward the Grand Medicinal Hall at the higher reaches of the mountain gate. Their faces were filled with worry, excitement, resentment, or anticipation. Eric and Jerome came together to find Andrew. Jerome said, "Andy, there's a good chance the Advanced Medical Institute will see a battle today. My suggestion is we watch and wait for now." Andrew pondered for a moment. "Mr.

Thornton, based on what you know, who's stronger? Corbin or Koda?" Jerome replied, "In terms of raw strength, both of them are martial saint-level experts. However, Koda has exceptional talent, and his fighting style is brutally aggressive. If they clash, Corbin wouldn't stand a chance. Andrew nodded. "Got it. Let's go. We should follow along and see what these two dividers of the Advanced Medical Institute plan to discuss." Soon, they met up with Milo. ---- Milo had already brought along over 20 personal experts with him, clearly his trusted inner circle.

He had changed into even more luxurious silk robes. His every gesture radiated confidence and ambition. "Jerome, Mr. Lloyd, I'm deeply grateful to have two such powerful allies supporting me," Milo began politely. Then, his expression turned serious as he shifted into persuasion. "As long as you both give your full support in helping me gain influence within the Institute, I'll make sure to show my gratitude once I take the leadership seat. Both of you can freely choose between the positions of Guardians or Chief Guest Elder. Jerome replied courteously, "Milo, you're too kind.

Given our friendship, helping you rise to power is the least we can do." Milo laughed heartily and turned to Andrew. "Mr. Lloyd, what about you? What do you say?" Andrew played along perfectly. "What else can I say? Following you means there's food on the table. I'm young and don't understand much... I'm new to this world. Just tell me what you need, and I'll make it happen." Milo was very satisfied with Andrew's obedient attitude. He waved his hand and called out, "Quinn, come here. I want you to ---- meet this outstanding young man from Chetvine, Mr. Discover more novels at

Andrew Lloyd!" He added, "Even though his martial arts aren't particularly exceptional, his family background is solid. He came to help me this time and brought over 20 experts of a level above martial king. They're waiting at the foot of the mountain right now!" Quinn Avila was Milo's daughter. Dressed in a green silk gown, her hips swayed as she walked. Born seductive, with a pair of foxy eyes, she stepped up to Andrew and peeked at him before shyly lowering her head. "It's nice meeting you, Mr. Lloyd. Men from Chetvine truly are extraordinary.

I've lived in the Advanced Medical Institute my whole life, and this is the first time I've seen someone as outstanding as you." 15/11/2025 Andrew noticed the fleeting disdain in her eyes and almost laughed. She was clearly a sultry fox playing pretend as a well-bred lady. Moreover, Milo's intention in introducing his daughter at such a delicate moment was obvious: he wanted to use Quinn to tie Andrew to his camp. Playing along, Andrew put on a dazed, smitten smile. "Quinn, you're absolutely stunning. A beauty that no words could describe.

If you think I'm handsome, then you'd better come visit ---- me often." Her lips twitched with a flash of contempt, but she quickly resumed her soft, coy tone. However, Andrew had already lost interest in entertaining her.

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## Chapter 2656

---- Chapter 2656 After exchanging a few words with them, Andrew suggested they should head to the Grand Medicinal Hall first. Milo smiled and agreed, "In that case, let's go to the Grand Medicinal Hall now. Although it's supposed to be the big negotiation between Koda and Corbin, without my voice in the hall, nothing will move forward." Andrew inwardly scoffed, now even more convinced that Milo was a hopeless fool who was beyond help. The guy had no clue about his own capabilities. He actually thought he could influence the negotiations between Koda and Corbin. It was ridiculous.



If Milo had any real power within the Advanced Medical Institute, he would have entered the competition for Director long ago. Why would he still have zero presence now? Without Jerome's arrival and Andrew's involvement, Milo would be nothing more than a clown nobody paid attention to at the Institute. The Grand Medicinal Hall was already packed to the brim. The Institute had hundreds of disciples, and including those who were away, their total number reached nearly 800.

---- Now, the entire hall was split cleanly into two factions facing each other with open hostility. The moment Andrew arrived, he felt the sharp, naked killing intent and animosity coming from both sides. The chair in the dead center of the hall was empty, and that was the seat of the Director. At its left and right stood two men: one wide-shouldered, with a massive sword resting at his side and a rebellious expression, while the other was calm and unreadable, with eyes that revealed deep schemes.

Andrew knew immediately that these two must be today's main players: Koda Dawson, the senior apprentice of the Advanced Medical Institute, and Corbin Easton, the Grand Elder. Besides these two heavyweight figures, eight other elders sat in the hall. Without exception, they were all elders of the Advanced Medical Institute. From their seating positions, it was clear each had chosen their allegiance. Some stood with Koda; others were in Corbin's camp. As soon as Milo arrived, he laughed heartily and took his seat with confident strides.

His choice of seating was quite particular, neither left nor right. He sat right in the center at the end, directly facing the Director's seat at the far end of the hall. ---- Andrew and Jerome exchanged glances, both finding it absurdly funny. Milo had inflated his ego to the point of announcing neutrality. Yet, in a moment like this, neutrality required strength. If you had no power and still pretended to stand alone, you were simply the first to die. Milo clearly had no idea that one of his feet was already stepping past death's door. READ LATEST CHAPTERS AT

The hall was crowded, so Andrew blended in among the lower-ranked disciples without worrying about being spotted by Lorenzo or Mikayla. Lorenzo, that old fox, sat calmly behind Corbin, looking completely at ease. Meanwhile, Mikayla was exchanging flirtatious glances with Corbin's son, Lennox. In contrast, Koda's side had far less outside support. Besides a few loyal junior apprentices and some hired muscle he had made connections with in the martial world, he only had the Institute disciples who followed him. "Silence!" Corbin's voice boomed through the hall!

The noisy chamber immediately fell quiet. After all, Corbin was still the Grand Elder of the Advanced Medical Institute, nominally the most powerful person after the Director. -- When he roared, it still carried weight. This did somewhat dampen the morale of Koda's side. A junior apprentice standing behind Koda sneered sarcastically, "Grand Elder, what impressive authority and tone you have there. Just because Mr. Quentin Livingston has passed away doesn't mean you are now the Institute's top leader. Throwing your weight around like this..."

You don't actually think you're already the Director, do you?"

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## Chapter 2657

---- Chapter 2657 Corbin looked over coldly and snorted, "I've never claimed to be the Director. Mr. Livingston's passing grieves me more than anyone else. And it's exactly because of that grief that seeing traitors like you splitting the Advanced Medical Institute apart fills me with outrage. "Today, I'm stepping forward to take charge of this situation to honor Mr. Livingston's memory. We cannot let the Institute fall apart just because he's gone.

We have to show him that the Institute is still thriving and still one of the great forces in the martial world." These words immediately drew cheers of approval. "Well said!" "The Grand Elder is right. We must let Mr. Livingston rest in peace. Crush the traitors and protect the Grand Elder!!" The disciples supporting Corbin immediately raised their arms and shouted, their faces flushed with excitement. Andrew shook his head from within the crowd, knowing these disciples had no real significance. Whether Corbin or Koda won, the benefits would never reach them.

They were nothing but expendable foot soldiers who were getting fired up over a battle - --- that would only kill them first. Just then, a loud series of slams echoed through the hall. Both Corbin and Koda snapped their gaze toward the sound. Jerome leaned in close and muttered to Andrew, "Andy, we should step back. Milo's about to make a fool of himself." Andrew noticed it too. Milo had chosen the worst possible moment to draw attention to himself. Even if Corbin and Koda wanted to kill each other, they would probably join forces just to eliminate him first. This chapter is updated by

So Andrew did not hesitate and followed Jerome to the back of the crowd. Sometimes, it was wise to stay low. Corbin asked coldly, "Milo, what do you want to say?" Milo remained seated and was completely unbothered. He said, " Let me cut in for a moment. Aren't you two here to negotiate today? Why don't you both take my advice? Lay down your grudges and give me some face. We can calmly choose a new Director, close this chapter, and avoid bloodshed. How does that sound?" Corbin froze and stared at him like he was a complete idiot.

Koda smirked and slowly brushed his fingers along the heavy ---- sword beside him. "Mr. Avila, that's a nice thought." "Koda, speak up," Milo said with a proud grin. Koda replied, "I have two words for you: absolute garbage. Now, can you please shut up?" The hall erupted instantly, and several disciples even burst out laughing. Milo's face

turned bright red as he shook with anger, pointing at Koda while stammering, "k-Koda, you..." Quinn hurried over and whispered, "Dad, please stop. If you try to take charge now, you're basically asking to be killed." However, Milo roared, "Bullshit!

Do you really think I have no leverage? Corbin and Koda aren't the only powerhouses in the Institute anymore. I can stand shoulder to shoulder with them now!" Corbin sighed and said calmly, "Milo, you must be drunk. Sit down. We have serious matters to discuss, and we don't intend to stoop to your level."

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## Chapter 2658

---- Chapter 2658 Milo yelled and shouted, still trying to save face and regain his dignity. Koda's voice tuned icy cold. "Milo, back when Mr. Livingston was alive, out of respect for him, I'd call you Mr. Avila. But now that Mr. Livingston is gone, an old piece of trash like you means absolutely nothing to me. If you keep running your mouth, I'll show you what it means to lose your head." Milo's eyes filled with terror, and he bit down on his teeth in silent rage. Deep down, he was still afraid of Koda. With his pathetic combat abilities, he would not last even one round against him.

Corbin shouted, "Koda, enough with the nonsense. Let's go with the previous proposal. We'll hold a fair election for the director position. Whoever gets the most votes wins. This is the fairest and least damaging solution." Koda sneered, "Corbin, you old fool, you must be dreaming. You have way more people than I do. Using votes to select the director? Do you think I'm stupid? I'll never agree to your proposal. How about we go with my suggestion instead? This update is available on

You and I fight one-on-one, and whoever wins gets the right to lead the entire Advanced Medical Institute." ---- Corbin's expression darkened, his brow twitching repeatedly. Everyone in the Advanced Medical Institute knew he was not skilled in combat; his strength was in alchemy. Meanwhile, Koda was the Institute's martial champion. Choosing the next leader through combat was exactly the kind of plan that played directly into his hands. However, to everyone's surprise, Corbin gritted his teeth after a long silence and said, "Fine, I accept." Koda was momentarily shocked.

He had not expected Corbin to actually agree. After a two-second silence, the Institute disciples erupted, chanting Corbin's name repeatedly. Clearly, Corbin's move had won him massive popular support. Koda grinned wickedly. "Corbin, you old fool, since you're so eager to die, I'll gladly oblige. Let's settle this right now, once and for all." He grabbed his sword, ready to step down Corbin snorted coldly. "I know your martial skills surpass

mine, but Koda, you've committed so many wrongs and harbor such evil intentions. Heaven and Mr. Livingston's spirit will surely stand on my side.

Tonight, I'll return and hold a vigil for Mr. Livingston. Tomorrow, we fight to decide the winner." ---- Koda did not bother arguing. He carried his sword and led his people away with an explosive stride. He had absolute confidence that he could take Corbin's head. Right now, he did not have many advantages, but when it came to combat, he had no fear whatsoever. Once Koda's group left, Corbin continued basking in the cheers and adoration of the Advanced Medical Institute's disciples. Lennox looked proud as he rushed to Corbin's side with his chin lifted high.

Lorenzo stood in the back with an unreadable smile before slipping away. Mikayla hurried after him. Before leaving, she shot a quick glance in Milo's direction. Andrew had already retreated to the back entrance of the Grand Medicinal Hall. Mikayla's cautious nature was obvious everywhere she went. Unfortunately, she never imagined she would end up dragged into the internal war of the Advanced Medical Institute "Hey, Mr. Lloyd, let me ask you something." The moment Quinn stepped out of the Grand Medicinal Hall, she went straight for Andrew. ---- "Why didn't you stand up for my dad just now?

Aren't you some rich kid from Chetvine? Weren't you supposed to back him up? You coward. What does my dad even need you for?" Quinn switched faces unbelievably fast. Earlier, she had been acting cute and putting on an act in front of Andrew. Yet barely a moment later, she had completely turned against him.

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## Chapter 2659

---- Chapter 2659 Andrew looked at her calmly and said, "Ms. Avila, I think you're mistaken. Mr. Avila didn't need me to step in back then. He was just arguing with the Grand Elder for a couple of minutes, and you already expected me to jump in. So where were you during all that?" Quinn froze for a second, then snapped back with even more anger. "You're not a man at all. You dare ask me where I was when my dad trusted you so much that he even told me to get close to you. I didn't expect you to be such a useless disappointment." She turned as if to leave.

"I'm going back to tell my dad he absolutely shouldn't trust you." Before she could storm off, Milo approached with a group of people. His expression still looked sour, but his tone stayed polite as he said, "Mr. Lloyd, what happened earlier wasn't your fault. You're still unfamiliar with the dynamics inside the Advanced Medical Institute, but

moving forward, I plan to speak with Corbin and Koda privately." He continued, "If things don't work out, then we'll have to fight. When that happens, I'm counting on you to back me up." Andrew gave a light smile. "No problem.

Although I must say, ---- Ms. Avila has quite a personality. She just shredded me like I was a punching bag." Milo's face darkened as he barked, "Quinn, get over here and apologize to Mr. Lloyd. He's my honored guest, and your attitude was unacceptable." Quinn scoffed. "To me, he's just a coward. Instead of relying on him, Dad, you should listen to me and team up with the Grand Elder first. Take down Koda, then figure out the rest." Milo snapped, "You know nothing. That's foolish thinking. Corbin is arrogant to the bone. Do you think I haven't talked to him? He doesn't even take me seriously.

If Mr. Livingston and Mr. Lloyd weren't here, I wouldn't even have a seat at the table right now." Quinn shot Andrew a disdainful glare. "I don't care. Dad, I still think you should team up with the Grand Elder first, get your footing, then move. Outsiders will always be outsiders. Some people look impressive but are completely hollow inside." With that, she spun around and left, acting as spoiled as ever. Milo turned back to Andrew. "Mr. Lloyd, please don't take her to heart. Tomorrow, the two sides will decide everything in a duel.

I figured it's better to sit back and let them fight it out, and after that, we'll make our move. There's nothing else for today, so I'll have Quinn show you around the Institute later. The scenery around this mountain is rare." ---- Andrew smiled faintly and declined. "I'll pass. She clearly can't stand me, so it's better if I stay out of her way." Milo didn't insist. He didn't think much of Andrew anyway, as he mainly wanted to cling to Jerome for support. So he turned around and continued talking with Jerome. Andrew and Eric headed back to their place first. READ LATEST CHAPTERS AT

Eric asked, "Do you want me to drag Quinn over here so you can vent a little?" Andrew frowned. "What kind of nonsense is that? I'm not interested in that crazy woman." Eric scoffed coldly. "Damn brat dared yell at you like that. I couldn't stand her attitude, acting like we owe her." Andrew replied calmly, "She's just ignorant. Reality will teach her a hard lesson. Though she's interesting in a way... she seems really biased toward the Grand Elder. I just wonder what Corbin offered her." At that moment, Quinn arrived at a secluded part of the Institute, still fuming.

The Advanced Medical Institute sat deep within the mountains, far away from the public, and she waited alone behind a rocky wall with a sour expression. Soon, she heard movement behind her. A sleazy voice came ---- from the shadows as someone approached and laughed, "Quinn, did you wait long? I'm here."

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## Chapter 2660

---- Chapter 2660 As soon as the voice faded, someone slipped an arm around Quinn's waist. A large hand slid straight under her skirt, and Quinn tilted her head back slightly, pressing her neck against the man's mouth. Her eyes narrowed with pleasure as she started to melt into him. After a while, the man behind her was clearly getting worked up, so Quinn quickly grabbed his hand and whispered, "Lennox, not yet. I came to talk to you about something, and it's important." The shameless man was none other than Lennox.

He had the look of a soft-featured pretty boy, and with his smooth talk, he was popular inside the Advanced Medical Institute. Quinn was one of the women he had coaxed into his hands. "Quinn, go on. We can pick up where we left off after you say it." Lennox chuckled, his grin turning wicked. "I've been burning up lately, so later I want to hear you scream all through the canyon." Quinn shot him a sultry glare. "Your 'fire' is because of that bitch Mikayla, isn't it? You two have been awfully close lately. But whatever, that's not the point.

Do you know my dad is planning 'to jump into the fight for Director?" Lennox froze, then laughed dismissively. "Quinn, you won't like ---- what I'm about to say, but... your dad? Mr. Avila? Compete? Please." Quinn shook her head. "Maybe he didn't qualify before, which is why I told him to side with the Grand Elder, your father. But things are different now, because my dad has strong backup." She continued, "I'm worried he won't listen to me and will insist 'on joining the fight for the position." Lennox's expression went cold. "If that's true, then Quinn, don't blame me for being ruthless.

You know exactly what kind of man your dad is. Honestly, if he really dares to covet that position, he's signing his own death warrant." I know, that's why I'm worried," Quinn muttered irritably. "And on top of that, someone from Chetvine showed up by his side, a useless rich boy. I don't even know how strong he is, but the way he looked terrified in the hall today? He's not helping my dad. He's going to get him killed." Lennox suddenly asked with a dark look, "Quinn, do you love me? Quinn blinked, then threw herself into his arms. "Of course I do.

You have no idea how sick I felt when my dad asked me to cozy up to that useless guy from Chetvine. Ugh, just thinking about it makes me gag." ---- Lennox snorted. "Chetvine isn't full of prodigies either. Big place, plenty of trash. Here's what we'll do... I'll go back and tell my dad everything you just said. He'll decide what to do." Quinn grabbed his arm anxiously. "Lennox, you have to tell the Grand Elder not to hurt my dad. Please." Lennox stroked her cheek and said, "Relax. You're my woman. My dad won't harm your father for your sake.

But you need to go back and convince your dad that he must submit to mine. Otherwise, even if my dad spares him, punishment is unavoidable." Quinn nodded



quickly. "I'll tell him. I promise." Lennox pushed her head downward with a smirk. "Good. Since we're done with the small talk, let's get back to business." Quinn let out a muffled sound as Lennox stuffed her mouth with his junk. He stared out toward the cliffside and the distant view with a look of satisfaction on his face. To him, she was nothing more than a temporary hole he used whenever he felt like it.

He would kick her aside once he got tired of her, because what he could not have was what thrilled him the most. And the woman he was determined to get was Mikayla.

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## Chapter 2661

---- Chapter 2661 Andrew was caught off guard when Quinn actually came looking for him that afternoon. As soon as she stepped through the door, she said, "Mr. Lloyd, I was a bit rude earlier. Please don't take it to heart." Andrew silently scoffed. Quinn's face was plastered with fake sincerity while her attitude screamed entitlement. It was really amusing "Oh? Is there anything else?" Andrew's tone was flat and indifferent. Quinn's anger flared. "I apologized to you. What more do you want? Andrew, I know exactly what you're thinking.

You city boys have no real skills, but you're all desperate to get with women. Here's the deal: I can satisfy a little fantasy of yours, but you have to listen to me and help convince my dad." As she spoke, Quinn stepped closer to Andrew. Her face showed disgust, yet she clearly intended to let him do whatever he wanted. Andrew backed up two steps and frowned. "Sorry, but I'm picky about who I get involved with. Ms. Avila, I'll have to pass." ---- Quinn smirked. "Playing hard to get, are we? Andrew, are you seriously saying my looks and body aren't enough to tempt you?

I know you rich boys have been with plenty of women, but I'm one of the Advanced Medical Institute's top young disciples. Trust me, the experience I can give you is nothing like those cheap girls you mess around with in the city." Andrew remained unmoved and said flatly, "I'll still pass. I have a thing about cleanliness, and Ms. Avila, you've got the scent of a man on you. If I'm not mistaken, you just had your fill not too long ago. Coming to me right after that? Honestly, it's not even about being picky anymore.

You're just plain dirty." Quinn's face flushed crimson with rage and humiliation. "What did you just say? How dare you call me dirty? You bastard! Who do you think you are?" Andrew sneered. "What's wrong? Did I hit a nerve? So Ms. Avila, you really did just

finish up before coming here?" Quinn was mortified, thinking to herself that she had definitely rinsed her mouth thoroughly. Lennox's junk did have a strong smell, but she had cleaned herself several times. There should not be any trace left. She glared at Andrew with hatred burning in her eyes. "I'm not wasting my breath with you.

Andrew, my dad's wanting to ---- compete with Mr. Easton and Koda for the Director position is unrealistic. You want to egg him on? Well, I won't let you. But if you help me talk him out of this delusion, then maybe I'll be in a good mood afterward and actually give you a chance." Andrew could not stand this foolish woman's arrogance any longer. "I can't stop what Mr. Avila wants to do, so don't bother coming to me. As for you 'giving me a chance'... You should go clean yourself up properly first. Fresh chapters posted on

Maybe spray on some extra perfume while you're at it Quinn was livid, her eyes shooting daggers at Andrew. "You just wait!" she snarled through gritted teeth, looking like she wanted to devour him whole. With that, she spun around and stormed off. She needed to take a shower and change into clean clothes. Andrew's look just now made her feel like he saw her as nothing more than a hooker. Eric slipped into Andrew's room with a grin. "You really know how to lay it on thick, don't you? Milo's daughter might be a total slut, but she's still a woman.

You can't be that blunt with her." Andrew chuckled. "So what should I have said instead?" Eric laughed. "If I were you, I would've just sung her a little song. ' You're a hoe, you're a hoe, a dirty hoe everyone plays with...' ---- Eric started singing on the spot. And soon, he doubled over with laughter.

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## Chapter 2662

---- Chapter 2662 Andrew actually burst out laughing because of Eric. "You're saying my words were harsh, but what you just sang was straight -up evil." A moment later, a disciple came to report, "Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Avila is asking for you." Andrew raised a brow and told Eric, "Come on, let's see what this is about." When they arrived at Milo's residence, Andrew noticed that Jerome had already arrived ahead of them. The moment Jerome saw Andrew arrive, he subtly sent him a knowing look. Andrew immediately understood that Milo's invitation likely had something to do with Quinn.

At that moment, Quinn was sitting right beside Milo. When she saw Andrew walk in, she let out a cold snort and turned her head away, acting like she could not stand the sight of him. Andrew smirked in disdain. If it were not for needing to use Milo to connect with Koda, Andrew would have slapped the foolish woman and told her to get lost long ago.

"Mr. Lloyd, you're here," Milo greeted with a smile. ---- He said, "Here's the thing... I have a small matter I'd like to discuss with you two." Andrew smiled back. "Go ahead, Mr. Avila. Though I'm guessing it has something to do with Mr.

Easton, right?" Milo looked genuinely surprised. "How did you know that?" Andrew replied, "Ms. Avila already came to see me earlier. She asked me to join her in convincing you to submit to Mr. Easton and work together against Koda. I refused, and Ms. Avila got quite angry and did some things to me that are hard to talk about. To be honest, I'm in a very awkward position here." Milo's expression turned serious, and he let out a huff. "Mr. Lloyd, you brought your family's finest to help me, and that's already a huge favor. Please, tell me what Quinn did.

If she goes too far, I won't let her off lightly." With that, he turned to Quinn with a disapproving look. "Quinn, I know you've been close with Lennox and always listen to him, but have you thought this through? Lennox works for Corbin, while Mr. Lloyd is my ally. You can't even tell friend from foe. If you really said something offensive to Mr. Lloyd, don't blame me for being harsh." Quinn opened her mouth, wanting to explain. Yet, for a moment, she could not figure out what to say. ---- She could only glare at Andrew and cry out, "You call yourself a man?

You're the one who was acting like a pervert, and now you have the nerve to tattle to my dad. Doing this only makes me despise you even more." Andrew shook his head and sighed. "Mr. Avila, you see? She seems to have it out for me, but I really haven't done anything to offend her. I haven't even been remotely disrespectful to her." Seeing this, Milo's anger slowly ignited. While he did not care much for Andrew personally, the people Andrew brought were powerful assets he could not afford to lose. Not to mention Jerome's connection.

Therefore, he absolutely could not take his daughter's side over Andrew's. Milo turned on Quinn and yelled, "You ungrateful brat, how dare you disrespect Mr. Lloyd? Apologize, now." Quinn was beside herself with rage and sneered. "In your dreams. Milo was about to explode, but Andrew quickly intervened. " Please, Mr. Avila, calm down. Actually, what Ms. Avila did to me earlier wasn't that excessive. She just tried to seduce me, offering herself to make me submit to her will. "But how could I fall for that? Especially since I detected a ---- particular scent on her. Mr. Google search

Avila, there are some things I shouldn't say outright, but you should know that in big cities these days, some men and women do very risky things."

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## Chapter 2663

---- Chapter 2663 Milo's face had already darkened just from the first half of Andrew's words, as if he had swallowed something foul. When he heard the rest, he completely exploded and shouted, \* Mr. Lloyd, just say it. This wretched girl... I never imagined she would dare go this far." Quinn was burning with shame and fury, staring at Andrew in disbelief because she never expected him to expose everything to her father. "Andrew, if you say one more word, I'll kill you!" she screamed with red, furious eyes. Andrew cleared his throat, putting on an innocent expression. " Ms.

Avila, I'm only doing this for your own good. You're Mr. Avila's daughter, and Mr. Avila is destined to eventually clash with Mr. Easton. But you..." He sighed and added, "But you insist on degrading yourself by getting involved with Lennox. Ms. Avila, I really hate to say this, but in our high society families, what you've done would be grounds for complete disgrace. It's truly shameful... And that's not even the worst part. "You're Mr. Avila's daughter, a respectable young lady. Yet, you ---- used your mouth... I can't even finish. Mr.

Avila, there are some things I shouldn't say outright, so you'll have to handle this yourself. I just feel you shouldn't be kept in the dark. Think about it... Your precious daughter was servicing Mr. Easton's son with her mouth like that." He clicked his tongue and continued, "It's like you're on your knees, taking whatever Mr. Easton dishes out. No, I can't say any more... That would be too hurtful." With that, Andrew quickly shook his head. He acted as if he felt terrible about the whole thing. Eric, standing nearby, was already stunned speechless.

He never expected Andrew to be this ruthless. Even Jerome, the highly respected former leader of Southern Martial Union, was staring at Andrew with an odd expression. He smirked as he thought, 'Interesting indeed.' "Andrew, I'll kill you! My reputation is ruined because of your big mouth! I'm going to kill you!" Quinn's entire body trembled as she lost all control. Screaming, she raised both hands and launched a vicious attack at Andrew. From the look of it, she wanted to tear him limb from limb.

She yelled, "You beast!" ---- Before Andrew could even move, Milo's forehead was already bulging with veins. With one swift motion, he struck Quinn hard across the face. He had put real force behind that slap. Quinn let out a cry of pain and was sent flying. While still in midair, she spat out a mouthful of blood. Milo quickly pulled back, realizing he had hit her too hard. However, when he thought about what Andrew had just said in front of so many outsiders, he felt his face burning with shame. His daughter had humiliated him beyond measure. "Dad...

Y-you actually hit me?" Quinn lay on the ground, her voice dripping with resentment. "Fine. If you want to side with them so badly, then from now on, your life and death have nothing to do with me!" Sobbing hysterically, she scrambled to her feet and ran. Andrew

raised his hand. "Hey, hey, Ms. Avila! Don't cry, don't leave! I apologize for getting you hit for nothing. But honestly, I really am thinking of you. Using your mouth to service Mr. Easton's son is just too degrading. Think about it... You're a young woman with a bright future. Updates are released by

How can you cheapen yourself like this?" Quinn, who had already rushed out the door, stumbled again at his words. She nearly fell flat on her face. "Andrew, you bastard! ---- I'll have Lennox kill you for this!" Filled with overwhelming hatred, Quinn ran off crying to find Lennox. Andrew was absolutely thrilled inside. He thought, 'Stupid woman. You're still too green to play tricks with me.'

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## Chapter 2664

---- Chapter 2664 "Don't worry about that shameless little brat!" Milo showed no sympathy for Quinn's tears. His face remained dark and stormy. Jerome coughed and said, "Milo, let's get back to business. What are your thoughts on Corbin? Are you going to submit to him like your daughter suggested?" Milo sneered. "Submit? Are you kidding me? If this were before, without support from you and Mr. Lloyd, then sure, I'd be a nobody. But now I have the strength to compete with both Corbin and Koda. I may not have their massive resources, but I've got enough to fight for the top spot.

There's no way I'm bowing down to anyone now." Jerome nodded. "Actually, I was thinking the same thing. With Mr. Lloyd and me joining you, Milo, you're in a solid position. Going to grovel before Corbin or Koda now would be shooting yourself in the foot. If you did that, I'm afraid I couldn't stick around." Milo quickly replied, "Jerome, we've come this far together. You're already here, and you promised to help me. No matter what, you can't leave." Jerome said, "Of course not, as long as you don't mind having me and Mr.

Lloyd around." ---- Milo nodded repeatedly and said, "How could I ever push you two away? You will both be my strongest allies soon." Andrew smiled. "Mr. Avila, I actually have a suggestion." Milo replied, "Mr. Lloyd, please speak freely. Go ahead, Mr. Lloyd. As for Quinn's shameless behavior, there have always been rumors about her, but I refused to believe them. Yet today, I didn't expect her to embarrass herself like that in front of you. Mr. Lloyd, I owe you an apology." Andrew waved a hand dismissively. "Mr. Avila, don't worry about it. As long as you don't mind, I won't mind. The most update novels are published on

Anyway, I was thinking that we should avoid getting too close to Mr. Easton. Instead, we get a little closer to Koda." Milo's eyes widened. "No way! You both saw how that bastard Koda disrespected me today. Honestly, if I had to rank who I hate most, he'd be number one on my list." Andrew shook his head. "Mr. Avila, hear me out first. We all saw how Koda looked down on you and insulted you, but the dog that doesn't bark is often the one that bites. From what we can see, Mr. Easton has the support of the Chetvine's Owens family, and his power is already enough to crush Koda.

But once Koda falls, think about it... Can you really compete with Mr. Easton?" At those words, Milo's expression immediately became ---- uncertain, and he fell silent for a long moment. Andrew continued, "So we need to side with Koda first. No matter what, we can't let Mr. Easton easily take down Koda. The best outcome would be for both sides to fight until they're weakened and worn down. Then, the Advanced Medical Institute will be yours for the taking. But if you just sit back and watch Mr.

Easton destroy Koda, you'll be next on the chopping block." Jerome chimed in in a grave tone, "That's right, Milo. Mr. Lloyd's point is eye-opening; even I hadn't considered this angle. Today at the Grand Medicinal Hall, Corbin agreed to a one-on-one duel to the death with Koda. That tells us Mr. Easton must be confident he can kill Koda." He added, "If Mr. Easton wins without losing a single soldier, he'll become the strongest force in the Advanced Medical Institute afterward. Even you won't be qualified to compete with him anymore.

In the end, you'll have no choice but to kneel at his feet and submit." The two of them tag-teamed their argument, and soon Milo was looking deeply worried. He said, "You're right... I really overlooked that point. Mr. Lloyd, you young people really think fast. I need to have a meeting with that arrogant bastard, Koda, right away. If he goes down, I won't stand a chance either.

But if the two of them fight like idiots while I benefit, that will be the smartest move." ---- Thinking he had just achieved some strategic enlightenment, Milo began mumbling with excitement, Andrew quietly shook his head because Milo was correct about not letting Corbin eliminate Koda too easily. Yet, the part he got wrong was that Milo simply was not reliable enough to hold long- term power. Otherwise, Andrew would have gladly helped him take over Advanced Medical Institute, as long as Milo handed the alchemists over afterward. Milo suddenly stood up and said, "There's no time to waste.

Jerome, Mr. Lloyd, I need you both to come with me to meet Koda."

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## Chapter 2665

---- Chapter 2665 Jerome frowned. "If we just show up like this, won't it start a fight?" Milo sneered. "Don't worry. As long as I'm willing to humble myself just a little before Koda, that arrogant young man will get so full of himself he'll forget where he stands. Little does he know, he's just a stepping stone for me to become the Director." Andrew smiled. "I have no problem with that. Just give the order, and I'll be the first to charge forward." Milo appreciated that and said, "Mr. Lloyd, I'll say it again. The source of this content is

Once things work out for me, Quinn will be your perfect wife." Andrew immediately waved it off and said, "Let's not do that. Ms. Avila is beautiful, capable, and refined, so you should keep her and marry her off to someone else with real potential." Milo choked on that answer, and he instantly realized Andrew was disgusted by his daughter's behavior. Just thinking about Quinn's revolting actions made Milo's expression darken again. Once everything had settled down, he would have to find time to severely discipline that disgrace of a daughter.

---- With Milo leading the way, Andrew, Jerome, and Eric headed out to meet Koda. Most of the Advanced Medical Institute's territory and people were already under Corbin's control. Koda, relying on his sheer aggression and his early advantage, held a section on the west side. The place was easy to defend and hard to breach, plus it used to be Quentin's private residence. As they walked, Milo said with a mocking tone, "Mr. Livingston died right here, killed by the disciple he trusted the most.

He never expected the place he cherished would turn into his burial ground." Jerome snorted and said, "In our world, betraying your mentor is the biggest taboo, and one day, Koda will pay the price for what he did." Milo huffed. "And I will be the agent of that justice. After I take down both Corbin and Koda, I'm sure Mr. Livingston's spirit will be grateful to me." Andrew thought, 'Mr. Livingston won't thank you. He'll just wave and say hello, because you're probably going to meet him pretty soon yourself.' "Stop right there!" two of Koda's men shouted from the ridge on the west side.

Their expressions were unfriendly as they blocked ---- Andrew's group Milo's face turned stormy, and he slapped both of them twice without hesitation. "Move, you blind idiots. Can't you see I'm here to see Koda?" he snapped. The two disciples had taken a beating for nothing. They were furious, but they did not dare to say a word. "Mr. Avila, quite the entrance you made." Koda's voice came from behind them as he walked up with his massive broadsword resting on his shoulder. He arrived so fast that Andrew realized Koda must have been on high alert for Corbin.

With the duel scheduled for tomorrow, he was clearly afraid something might happen today, so he was constantly monitoring the outside situation and keeping all his subordinates close by. He was actually quite meticulous and thorough in his planning

But even so, having killed his own mentor to take his place, this cold-blooded man earned nothing but contempt and disdain from Andrew. "Koda, I've come to talk with you. If you don't want to be destroyed by Corbin without even knowing why, you'd better invite me inside to discuss this properly," Milo said coldly. ---- Koda remained unmoved.

He glanced at Jerome, and he asked, " May I ask if you are Mr. Jerome Thornton?" Jerome stepped forward with a smile. "That's me, though you ought not to be so formal with me. Koda, your exceptional abilities are truly admirable." Koda's expression became serious. "Not at all! I know about your position as the leader of the Southern Martial Alliance. Mr. Thornton, please, come in." Milo snorted and strutted inside arrogantly, completely oblivious to the fact that Koda was showing respect to Jerome, not him. "Hold it!" But when Andrew followed them in, Koda suddenly shouted coldly.

Immediately, his massive sword pointed straight at Andrew with murderous intent. "L only invited Mr. Thornton inside. And who exactly are you? If you're some nobody, then leave immediately. I respect nothing; I only respect heroes and warriors. If you're just a nobody, then I'm sorry, but you're not welcome here."

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## Chapter 2666

---- Chapter 2666 Seeing how Koda was acting, Milo snapped, "Koda, what's the meaning of this? Mr. Lloyd is with me. Who are you to block him? Koda smirked. "So what if he's with you? Don't forget that you're the one who came looking for me, so you'll follow my rules. How do I know he's not a spy sent by Corbin, and you're just too old and senile to notice?" Milo's face flushed red with fury. "Koda!" Andrew spoke up with a smile. "Mr. Avila, there's no need to get upset. It's perfectly reasonable for him to be cautious.

Clearly, he's been burned by this kind of thing before." Koda snorted coldly with disdain. "That bastard Corbin, egged on by the Owens family head, loves playing dirty tricks. But in my eyes, those are just games that clowns play. Mr. Lloyd, don't take it personally, but there are just too many outside forces targeting the Advanced Medical Institute right now." Andrew thought to himself that Koda was absolutely right. He was indeed someone who planned to take advantage of the Advanced Medical Institute. "I'm from the Lloyd family of Chetvine... the Lloyd royal family.

You must have heard of them, right?" ---- Andrew casually revealed some of his background. Koda's eyelid twitched, and he said with surprise and uncertainty, "The Lloyd royal family of Chetvine? The family that the Lloyd family's Dragon Prince belongs

to?" Andrew's smile widened. "That's right, the very family where the Lloyd family's Dragon Prince comes from. Do you happen to know the Dragon Prince?" Koda shook his head. "I've never had the chance to meet him, but everyone in the nation knows of your family's Dragon Prince.

I've been fortunate enough to visit Chetvine several times, but I never had the opportunity or qualifications to meet him." His gaze toward Andrew immediately became somewhat friendlier. "I wonder if you've ever met the Dragon Prince?" Andrew smiled. "Of course I have, but I'm just a small fry in the Lloyd family. The Dragon Prince is incredibly handsome and an absolute genius. Usually, we don't get the chance to see him." Koda nodded in complete agreement. "That makes perfect sense. Low-level grunts can't just walk up to the moon in the sky.

Even here in the Advanced Medical Institute, most low-ranking workers will never have the right to speak to me." From his arrogant and cold tone, it was clear this man was extremely ruthless. He believed his high position was ---- completely deserved and looked down on everyone beneath him. Andrew said casually, "So does that mean I can now enter your territory?" Koda waved his hand grandly. "Come in then.

Since you're from the Lloyd royal family of Chetvine, even though you're just a nobody in the family, I still respect the Dragon Prince, so I'll give you this courtesy for his sake." Andrew was speechless, He really wanted to tell Koda that he was no one compared to himself Eric, standing nearby, could not help but snicker. He glanced at Andrew, secretly delighted that even he had days like this. At that moment, Koda's cold gaze shifted to Eric. "You weird- looking freak, who are you supposed to be?" Eric froze for a moment, then exploded with rage.

"What the hell did you just call me?" Koda said dismissively, "I called you a freak. What about it? You're acting way too feminine for a guy." Eric was beside himself with fury, ripples appearing in his eyes as he prepared to use his Phantom Mirage technique to teach Koda a lesson. Jerome intervened at the right moment. "This is my adopted son, Eric Humphrey. Koda, if you don't ---- welcome him, then we'll leave."

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## Chapter 2667

---- Chapter 2667 Koda was taken aback. Then, his expression turned strange. "So he's your son, Mr. Thornton?" He chuckled awkwardly and added, "Looks like I misjudged earlier. I never expected a man of your reputation to have a son who is so... well,

unique. Come on in, all of you." Only then were the group allowed to step into Koda's territory, Andrew scanned the area and realized Koda had taken over a mountain ridge surrounded by cliffs on three sides. It was not large, but it was absolutely a strategic stronghold. If Corbin tried to attack head-on, he would not have an easy time.

Koda had three martial saints under his command. Each one looked at Andrew's group with cold, indifferent eyes, barely acknowledging their presence. Koda made no move to have his people greet Andrew and the others either. He simply gestured casually for them to sit down. Meanwhile, he took the main seat on the cushion. Then, he reached over and grabbed some grilled meat nearby, stuffing it into his mouth. It was worth noting that his massive sword never left his side and was positioned where he could grab it at a moment's notice to defend himself. ---- Andrew remained perfectly calm.

With just one glance, he could easily tell that Koda was now like a frightened bird. He was terrified that danger could strike at any moment, which was why he kept his sword within reach. Moreover, looking at the people under Koda's command, every single one had a haggard expression and bloodshot eyes. They looked like cornered beasts, with none of them appearing relaxed. They all looked more like desperate criminals ready to fight to the death at any moment. By comparison, Corbin's side was clearly confident of victory.

Milo looked at Koda's men with disgust before saying, "Koda, have you figured out how you're going to fight that Corbin tomorrow?" Koda replied casually, "What do you mean, how am I going to fight? My sword can easily split his skull open." Milo snorted coldly. "Haven't you considered that if Corbin so readily agreed to a one-on-one duel with you, there must be some trick involved?" Koda scoffed, "When you have absolute strength, no trick matters. Anyway, you're no saint yourself. Follow current novels on

Just tell me straight, what the hell are you doing here?" ---- Milo huffed, "With that attitude of yours, it's tough for me to stay calm and help you." Koda scoffed. "You think you're helping me? Not even counting your suicidal behavior in the hall today, what right do you have to stand out and show off in front of all those people? If it weren't for Mr. Thornton's sake, I would've cut you down already." Milo said grimly, "Koda, don't get cocky. No matter what, I'm still the Sixth Elder of the Advanced Medical Institute.

Do you really think killing me would have no consequences for you?" Koda flashed a malicious grin. "Why don't you stick your neck out and let's find out? Old fool, who the hell do you think you are? I dared to stab Mr. Livingston, so what makes you any different?" Milo's fingers trembled with rage. "Koda, you..." At that moment, Andrew burst out laughing, interrupting Milo's pathetic performance.

He thought Milo really was brainless Koda had made it abundantly clear that he was a desperate criminal who did not care about anything, yet Milo was still trying to pull rank by claiming he was the Sixth Elder. The Advanced Medical Institute was in complete chaos, and being a Sixth Elder meant absolutely nothing. Andrew chimed in, "We came here to align ourselves with you ---- against Mr. Easton." Koda put down the bone in his

hand. Smirking as he replied, "A clueless idiot like Milo would never understand that if I go down, he goes down too. This had to be either your idea or Mr.

Thornton's. But I don't care. So tell me... What does this" alignment' look like?"

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## Chapter 2668

---- Chapter 2668 Andrew smiled. "Talking with smart people is always a relief. It's simple because right now, your forces are clearly at a disadvantage compared to Mr. Easton's. Having Mr. Avila assist you and jointly fight against him is the best strategy. It's the best move for both of you and us." Koda nodded while letting out a cold laugh. "That makes sense, but why should I believe Milo has the strength and qualifications to help?

And how do I know you people aren't just using Milo?" Andrew had already anticipated that Koda, being as paranoid as he was, would naturally dig deep and would not trust anyone easily. He smiled and said, "You might not know this, but the Lloyd royal family and the Owens family don't get along. Fundamentally, the Lloyd royal family and Mr. Vasquez behind the Owens family are like fire and water. As a member of the Lloyd family, I came here because of the Owens family." He continued, "What the Owens family wants is the entire Advanced Medical Institute, and Mr.

Easton is just a stepping stone for Mr. Owens Senior. So I have no choice but to stand on your side." Koda's expression gradually became more serious. He could not ---- help but curse, "Those big families in Chetvine are all a bunch of scheming bastards. When it comes to playing mind games, how can we, from traditional sects, possibly compete with them?" One of Koda's subordinates, a young man with a scar on his face, licked his lips with a vicious grin. "Mr. Dawson, what's the big deal? Let me sneak over tonight under the cover of darkness and kill Mr. Owens Senior. New novel chapters are published on

While I'm at it, I'll also capture his gorgeous daughter, Mikayla. Then, we can all have some fun together." The group of bloodthirsty men immediately broke into lewd laughter. Even Koda seemed tempted, stroking the rough stubble on his chin as his eyes shifted thoughtfully. At that moment, a scoff rang out through the crowd. The scarred young man was the first to take offense, snarling viciously, "What are you laughing at? Are you looking down on me?" Andrew shook his head. "I'm not looking down on you.

I'm just thinking that there's nothing between your ears." The man's face twisted with anger as he gripped the handle of his spiked mace, radiating killing intent. "You're nothing but a pretty boy from Chetvine. In the eyes of us real warriors, I could take down a pampered punk like you with one hand." ---- Andrew laughed. "Forget one hand. No matter who you are, I still wouldn't give you a second glance. Idiot, let me tell you something: Mr. Owens Senior has the strength of a martial emperor. Forget a brute like you, even Mr. Dawson here wouldn't be his match.

Moreover, Mikayla is no pushover either. From what I know, she is already a high-level martial saint. In Chetvine, she's recognized as a martial arts prodigy." The scarred young man's expression froze, and he could not help but gulp hard. Even so, he refused to back down, leaving his face twisted between rage and humiliation Andrew ignored the low-level thug entirely and looked straight at Koda. "I'm from Chetvine, and if you don't trust me on this, then there's no one else in the entire Advanced Medical Institute who understands the Owens family better than I do.

"You can choose whether to listen, but I need to make the stakes clear. Right now, your side is being pushed into a corner by Mr. Easton, and you're seconds away from being crushed."

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## Chapter 2669

---- Chapter 2669 Koda's expression instantly darkened. "I already knew the Owens family came with overwhelming force and wouldn't be easy to deal with, but I never expected that the pathetic Mr. Owens Senior would be so formidable. It's also shocking that Mikayla has the same combat power as me." Milo seized the opportunity and scoffed. "So now you understand how much it benefits you that I came. If it weren't for me taking pity on you, you probably wouldn't even realize how Mr. Easton plans to play you to death." Koda snorted.

"Fine, I'll choose to believe what you're saying for now, but I know Mr. Easton's martial abilities. Although we're both high-level martial saints, when it comes to actual combat, he's absolutely no match for me. He's old and well past his prime, while I'm in my element. With my greatsword, Savage Dragon, I can definitely take his life within three exchanges." He continued, "The main thing is, Corbin has hidden tricks, but I'm no brainless brute either. Do you think I haven't prepared anything myself?" Under everyone's watchful eyes, Koda deliberately paused for effect.



Then, looking triumphant, he pulled out a small bottle from his chest. ---- Opening the cap, he immediately poured out a black pill. Milo stared intently at the pill, licking his lips with greed. "That's actually a Bloodburst Pill! It can instantly ignite a martial artist's blood essence and boost their strength by three levels. This ninth -grade supreme elixir is incredibly rare... Koda, you got this from Mr. Livingston, didn't you?" Koda flashed a cold, arrogant smirk. "Of course. That old bastard was holding this very pill, looking at it from every angle, completely entranced by it. Follow current novels on

Right when he was focused with his attention completely absorbed, my greatsword split his skull open from behind." Andrew felt a surge of disgust as he watched Koda brag about killing Quentin. The man was already dead, yet Koda still used the story like some twisted badge of honor. Koda was truly ruthless "Koda, I had the fortune of meeting Mr. Livingston a few times. I personally believe that the dead deserve respect. Since you've already killed him, there's no need to keep mentioning and insulting the deceased," Jerome said in a grave tone.

Clearly, he too disapproved of Koda's vicious and merciless attitude. Koda laughed heartily and put away the Bloodburst Pill. "Mr. ---- Thornton, I know you all think I'm an ungrateful wretch and a traitor for killing my own mentor, worse than an animal. But I have no regrets. I only want to say that the old bastard deserved to die." Jerome shook his head and stopped arguing. Andrew, however, could tell from the tension in Koda's voice that there was real hatred behind it. Apparently, Koda had some deep grudge against Quentin.

Milo said, "Even with the Bloodburst Pill's enhancement, Koda, your chances probably aren't that great." Koda gripped his greatsword tightly, his gaze fixed on the blade. "The Bloodburst Pill is my final trump card. If even this doesn't work, then there's nothing more I can do; it'll just be fate." Milo grew agitated. "What kind of attitude is that? How about you give me the Bloodburst Pill, and then we combine our forces. Tomorrow, we won't even bother with the duel against Mr. Easton; we'll just swarm him and destroy them all." Koda smirked. "The crap in my outhouse is still fresh.

If you're that desperate, go help yourself. I'll even throw in a free bowl and spoon." The insult cut deep, and Milo was seething. He wanted nothing more than to wipe that smug look off Koda's face for good. However, a cold fear of Koda's savage reputation kept him ---- locked in his seat, where he could do nothing but sit and stew in his rage.

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## Chapter 2670

---- Chapter 2670 Andrew suddenly spoke up. "I do have a method that could guarantee you an undefeated position, Mr. Dawson." At those words, Milo froze. He could not help but look at Andrew with clear displeasure. Obviously, he could not understand why Andrew had not told him about this method beforehand. Koda, meanwhile, looked both surprised and uncertain as he asked, "What method? Please tell me. If you can really help me kill Mr. Easton, then forget the Bloodburst Pill, I'll give you even more valuable things afterward." His tone toward Andrew had unconsciously become much friendlier.

From their earlier conversation, Koda had realized that Andrew was not brainless. On the contrary, he was extremely sharp, though his martial abilities seemed somewhat lacking. Andrew looked at Koda's eager expression, chuckled, and shook his head. "Right now, the timing isn't right. I can only say that if we join forces, it'll only benefit you with no drawbacks. But if you want to kill Mr. Easton through martial strength alone, even with the Bloodburst Pill, it'll be tough." Koda was somewhat unconvinced. "What makes you so sure? Do you know his abilities better than I do? Sure, Mr.

Easton might have ways to temporarily boost his strength, too, but I ---- know myself very well. When it comes down to a life-or-death fight, I can even briefly unleash a martial emperor-level attack and blast him to pieces." Milo said in shock, "Are you really that strong?" Koda looked at him with contempt. "What do you think? Otherwise, where would I get the confidence to kill Mr. Livingston? Mr. Avila, without Mr. Thornton and the others helping you, you're just a clown; I wouldn't even bother with you. Honestly, dealing with you would take me less than a minute." Milo gritted his teeth.

"Fine, you win." Andrew remained completely calm. "So, you can have a sudden burst of martial emperor strength, then clearly that Bloodburst Pill was just one of your many trump cards. You still have stronger backup plans hidden away. You just used the Bloodburst Pill to trick us into thinking that was your biggest move." He clicked his tongue and added, "You still don't trust us, do you? Koda's mouth twitched as his expression darkened, and he stared coldly at Andrew. "Yes, I do have another, better method. What I showed earlier was only a smokescreen. Your brain really works fast.

Honestly, I'm hesitating right now, wondering if I should just kill you. If you really are Mr. Easton or Mr. Owens. ---- Senior's spy, I'd be screwed." Andrew smiled. "No need to try scaring me with that kind of talk. Mr. Dawson... Oh, wait, I should say Koda. I actually know what trump card you're counting on to remain undefeated. And I also know that even if you used every ounce of your strength, you couldn't harm a single hair on my head. So threats and intimidation don't work on me." He continued, "I can only tell you this: either trust us, or you're on your own.

As for trying to attack me or whatever, don't take that risk. Otherwise, you might lose your head before you even get the chance to fight Mr. Easton tomorrow." The weight of Andrew's words was enormous. First, he openly switched from calling him Mr. Dawson to Koda. Then, he directly exposed Koda's hidden trump card, the one he thought made him unbeatable. Yet, Andrew dismissed it with ease. Finally, he outright warned Koda that trying anything reckless would only get him killed before tomorrow's duel. Koda's

grip on his sword tightened as his eyes grew colder while staring at Andrew. Updates are released by

Milo was stunned as well, because this version of Andrew felt like a completely different person, suddenly carrying a terrifying amount of confidence. Even Milo had trouble adjusting. ---- Andrew stood up and smiled at Jerome. "Mr. Thornton, let's go." He acted as if he had not noticed Koda and Milo's reactions at all. Jerome smirked. "Alright, let's head back. Oh, by the way, Koda, I forgot to mention something. Mr. Lloyd isn't the only one from the Lloyd family who came this time.

A big shot from the Lloyd royal family is currently resting at the foot of the Advanced Medical Institute's mountain."

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## Chapter 2671

---- Chapter 2671 Koda's eyelids twitched hard, and he glared at Andrew with a cold grin as he said, "No wonder you're so damn stubborn. Turns out one of your family's top dogs came along with you. Well, in that case, I suppose I can let you have this one." Milo yelped, "Mr. Lloyd, you mean the Lloyd royal family has. other experts here? W- Why didn't you give me a heads-up about this?" Andrew smiled. "Mr. Avila, didn't I tell you? My family's people are waiting down the mountain.

As for whether any big shots came with us, you didn't ask, so naturally I didn't tell you." Milo nodded repeatedly, excitement clear on his face. "It's no problem at all. As long as we've got experts here, that's what matters. May I ask, are they a martial emperor, or what level are we talking about?" Andrew thought for a moment, then said, "A martial emperor wouldn't last one exchange against the Elder. However, he came specifically for Mr. Owens Senior. Everyone else isn't worth his time." Milo was overjoyed. "That's enough... More than enough! Luck is truly on our side.

Since the Lloyd family brought such a pillar of strength, our side's got this in the bag." --- - Meanwhile, Koda's face darkened as he watched Andrew and his group heading out. He quickly caught up, forcing a smile. Wait. How about this... Let's work together, you and me. I'll give you this Bloodburst Pill right now. All I need is for you to lend me a hand here. Don't worry, whatever plans you have next, I'll definitely cooperate." Andrew snatched the Bloodburst Pill and said flatly, "We'll see. Koda, remember this: our primary target isn't Mr. Easton. It's the Owens family.

So if you listen to me, everything will be fine. But if you don't, you'll be dead." Koda nodded frantically. "Don't worry, I'll listen to you. But could you maybe ask that elder from your family to come up the mountain and rest? Our valley has way better conditions than down below. An expert of his caliber shouldn't have to rough it down there." Andrew's smile was half-mocking. "Relax, he comes and goes like a ghost.

Sure, he's down the mountain, but for all we know, he might've already snuck into the Advanced Medical Institute to keep tabs on us." Koda's eyes widened as he instinctively looked around. He saw nothing, but he could not help believing Andrew's words. Andrew held back a laugh, thinking to himself, 'The legendary elder you're looking for is just right in front of you!' ---- After leaving Koda's place, Eric secretly gave Andrew a thumbs-up. Andrew's smooth performance had successfully forced Koda to take them seriously.

Jerome did not say anything, but he was in awe of Andrew's schemes, his quick thinking, plus that incredible martial prowess. He thought Andrew was indeed born to be extraordinary. More accurately, he was a once-in-a-generation genius. Back on the peak, Koda watched Andrew's group leave with a dark expression. One of his men asked, "Mr. Dawson, can we trust what that brat said?" Koda pondered for a moment before responding, "It's probably true. Did you see how he went from humble to arrogant? I've seen that disgusting, lowlife attitude in plenty of these big family heirs.

At first, they play modest and low-key. But the moment they mention their family's big shots and backers, their true colors come out: cocky and overbearing." He added, "If the Lloyd family didn't really have backup down the mountain, would that little punk dare act so arrogant? Everyone ---- who comes to the Advanced Medical Institute knows how ruthless I am, Koda. The only explanation is that he's got something to back him up." His subordinate grumbled, "These big families, especially the ones from Chetvine, all act so high and mighty. Read complete version only at

However, I must admit that their family experts aren't ordinary people. So, does that mean you're going to listen to him?" Koda replied coldly, "Listen? Of course I'll listen, but not to everything. I'm not about to become his lapdog. The bottom line is, he claims he's got a way to make sure I don't lose. So I'll wait and see what he comes up with. Either way, I'm not losing anything here, am I?" His subordinate nodded. "That makes sense."

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## Chapter 2672

---- Chapter 2672 As they head back, Milo asked irritably, "Mr. Lloyd, why didn't you ever mention that your family brought a top-tier expert?" He clearly felt Andrew had deceived him and disrespected him. Andrew smiled and replied, "Mr. Avila, calm down. It's just that our elder doesn't like me casually revealing his whereabouts. How about this, Mr. Avila, I'll tell you exactly where he is and you can go talk it out with him yourself?" Milo's mouth went dry as he said, "It's fine, forget it. I wouldn't dare confront someone who can kill a martial emperor. Mr.

Lloyd, you're just messing with me now." Andrew sneered inwardly, already thinking that Milo was a burden he could finally drop. After all, they had successfully connected with Koda. Suddenly, Milo straightened his back and said righteously, "Mr. Lloyd, I knew from the start you're no ordinary man. Anyone from a major family is different. No offense, but even though your martial strength is a bit lacking, and judging from your condition, you were clearly injured lately and still carrying some damage... even those flaws can't hide how incredibly sharp you are.

A Lloyd family heir is still a Lloyd family heir; none of you is ever mediocre." ---- Andrew sensed something was amiss with this long string of flattery and asked flatly, "And?" Milo stroked his beard with a sly grin. "And... Well, I think you and Quinn would be a perfect match. Mr. Lloyd, listen to me. She's gorgeous and talented, absolutely a catch. As for those rumors from before, don't take them to heart. Men should be open-minded sometimes. If you didn't see it happen, then it doesn't count, right?" Andrew nearly gagged; Milo's logic was truly insane.

What did he mean by 'if he did not see it, it did not happen'? Did Milo really think Andrew was that desperate? Meanwhile, Milo, oblivious to Andrew's disgust, kept going. "So, Mr. Lloyd, you can try spending some time with her first. I believe the two of you will definitely spark something eventually. You know what they say, as long as there's love, everything else is just noise." He continued, "Honestly, Mr. Lloyd, you might be unaware of this .. but before you came, Quinn was very... proper." Andrew pressed his fingers to his forehead and forced a smile. " Mr.

Avila, I think we should focus on the real business first. Maybe pause the matchmaking for now." ---- Milo laughed awkwardly. "It's not matchmaking, really. I just think you two look perfect together." Even Jerome could not listen anymore and started coughing while pretending to admire the valley scenery. Milo still wanted to continue when a disciple from the Advanced Medical Institute approached respectfully. "Mr. Avila, Ms. Avila asked me to invite you over." Milo frowned and snapped, "That useless girl, where is she? Go back and tell her to come meet me and properly accompany Mr.

Lloyd." The disciple hesitated and said, "She is not home right now. She's at Mr. Easton's place, and she also sent a handwritten note from Mr. Easton." He handed Milo a folded letter. Milo opened it, and his expression instantly turned strange. "It's a letter from Corbin, inviting me over, saying he has good news to discuss. Damn it, now he wants our families to marry each other. He never said that back when he looked down on me. But now he's suddenly all humble and flattering. For more chapters visit

Looks like he finally realized how fearsome I am and wants to cozy up!" Judging by how he stroked his beard with hesitation and ---- interest, Andrew felt pure disgust. "Mr. Avila, don't forget you're already allied with Koda. If Ms. Avila marries Lennox, that means you're siding with Mr. Easton." Milo instinctively laughed. "If Quinn can marry Lennox, then honestly, that's not a bad deal. With Corbin's influence and the Owens family combined, that's definitely enough. Uh... Mr. Lloyd, don't get me wrong, I'm just stating facts. Anyway, you all rest here for now. I'll be right back.

Don't worry, no matter what Corbin says, I won't be fooled."

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## Chapter 2673

---- Chapter 2673 Milo happily took the letter and followed the disciple away. It looked like he was heading straight to meet Corbin. Jerome frowned and asked, "Should we stop him?" Andrew replied coldly, "No need. Corbin lured him with a marriage alliance, so there's no doubt it's a trap." Jerome asked, "What makes you so sure? Corbin does have a reason to win him over right now, and maybe he really wants Milo's support." Andrew shook his head with a cold smirk. "Mr. Thornton, the truth is much harsher than that. Corbin definitely knows Milo's real strength, which is basically nothing.

Without you joining him, Milo is worthless. But you saw it yourself, Corbin didn't even mention inviting you in that letter." He continued, "So the truth is obvious: he only wants Milo to go alone. And unless he's planning a slaughter, I can't think of any other reason." Eric stared at him. "You're saying Corbin wants to kill Milo?" Andrew nodded. "Exactly. Think about it: once Milo dies, you lose your foothold here in the Advanced Medical Institute. Read complete version only at

Even if you're strong, you have no official position here, so you can't ---- interfere in anything." He explained, "I can already picture Corbin's next move. He'll try to win you over, acting all emotional and reasonable. He'll claim Milo's death was an accident and not something he wanted. He'll beg you to support him for the sake of the Institute's stability, and he'll promise to repay you generously afterward." Jerome exhaled and nodded slowly. "Andy, you're probably right. In predicting schemes, you surpass me. So, what do you think I should do?" Andrew smiled. "Nothing.

We're heading straight to Koda. Corbin and Lorenzo still don't know I exist, and they also don't know you're working with me. If they knew, Corbin wouldn't have tried courting your support. So next, it's Koda and us versus Corbin and Lorenzo in a direct showdown." Jerome let out another breath and smiled. "Fine, we'll follow your plan.



When the fight starts, I'll hold off Lorenzo." Andrew looked surprised. "Mr. Thornton, you and Lorenzo. Jerome waved his hand. "On this trip to Basoria, I had some unexpected breakthroughs. Don't worry.

I may not defeat him head-on, but holding him off for a while won't be hard." Andrew grinned. "Perfect!" ---- "Lennox, do you think my dad will come?" Quinn paced anxiously in circles, Lennox wrapped his arms around her from behind, enjoying the softness of her breasts. "Of course he will, Quinn. You think he would ever ignore your happiness?" Quinn instantly melted into his arms and whispered, "Lennox, I never thought you'd actually marry me. No, I never thought things would happen this fast. I owe you and the Grand Elder so much." She continued, "Lennox, don't worry.

As long as you marry me, my dad's forces and all his people will back the Grand Elder fully. Lennox's lips curved in a mocking, playful grin. "My dear Quinn, I owe you big. Come on, take my finger and give it a nice lick." Quinn gasped and blushed. "Stop it, my dad is on his way. It would be so embarrassing if he saw." However, she never saw the flash of savagery and bloodlust that crossed Lennox's face behind her. As far as he was concerned, once Milo showed up, he would be the first one going to hell.

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## Chapter 2674

---- Chapter 2674 The small mountain valley was surrounded by towering peaks, and Mikayla stood on a boulder high above, her dress fluttering as she watched Lennox and Quinn tangled together down below. She looked amused, almost entertained by the scene. Footsteps sounded behind her, yet Mikayla did not turn around as she giggled and said, "Dad, you're here." Lorenzo walked up beside her, calmly glanced down at the valley, and gave a low grunt.

Mikayla snorted and asked, "Disgusting people, aren't they?" Lorenzo withdrew his gaze, his eyes cold as he said, "They're just lowly creatures enjoying a moment of pleasure, nothing more. Mikayla, we're reaching the most critical part of our plan, and you need to push harder on your side as well." Mikayla giggled and replied, "Don't worry, Dad. Handling Lennox is way easier than dealing with that damn Andrew. I only had to give a vague hint, and Lennox nearly lost his mind." Lorenzo replied mildly, "Speaking of Andrew, Mr.

Vazquez sent word that the little brat isn't in Chetvine right now." Mikayla answered lazily, "So what? You think Mr. Vazquez would bother looking at someone like him?" ---- "Of course, Mr. Vazquez doesn't care," Lorenzo said, his expression turning serious,

"but he reminded me not to get careless." He added, "If that brat shows up at the Advanced Medical Institute at the wrong time, he'll ruin everything we've built." Mikayla scoffed, "First of all, Andrew showing up here is already impossible, and even if he did, it wouldn't change a thing. Read complete version only at

We could use our victory as leverage and get the Institute to quietly wipe him out, and no one would ever know." Lorenzo frowned slightly. "Either way, being careful never hurts Mr. Vazquez laid out the entire political roadmap of the Advanced Medical Institute for me, and whether we can seize control and make the Institute work for the Owens family depends on us. If we fail, Mr. Vazquez won't lift a finger for us; he'll simply discard us." Mikayla muttered unhappily, "Dad, why do you always sound insecure whenever you bring up that old man Mr. Vazquez?

You're the head of the Owens family, the top favorite around Mr. Vazquez in all of Chetvine, and even Jose can't compare to you." Lorenzo barked, "Enough! Watch your mouth, Mikayla. Who gave you the nerve to badmouth Mr. Vazquez behind his back?" Mikayla shrank back. Tears immediately welled up in her eyes as ---- Mikayla let out a cold snort. "No, I'll handle him myself if I can, just to wash away the humiliation he once threw at me." Lorenzo's eyes shifted downward with amusement. "Well, looks like the Sixth Elder from Advanced Medical Institute, Milo Avila, just arrived.

He's as useless as everyone says, and since he's here, we might as well let Corbin take him out." He continued, "Then stick to the plan and go meet Jerome yourself. Remember to stay respectful and polite, because even if his skills aren't the strongest in the whole country, he's still a major figure in the Southern Martial Union and we need him on our side." Mikayla glanced downward and smiled. "Alright, I'll take care of it for you. But before that, I want to personally witness that wretched Quinn watching her pathetic father die, crying and breaking down in despair. It'll be beautiful.

And if she finds out that Lennox has been playing with her body this whole time, who knows? Maybe that pathetic woman will be so furious she'll just throw herself off a cliff." Hearing that, Lorenzo instinctively frowned because his daughter sounded a bit too vicious. Yet he did not scold or correct her.

After all, Mikayla was already outstanding enough, and he could not bring himself to say even one harsh word. What he did not know, however, was that the daughter he ---- protected so fiercely and refused to admonish would one day be utterly destroyed by Andrew, down to the point of being unrecognizable.

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## Chapter 2675

---- Chapter 2675 Milo came over in high spirits to find Quinn, but the moment he saw them, he frowned. He growled, "Quinn, it's broad daylight. What exactly are you two doing?" At that moment, Quinn had been leaning cozily against Lennox. Even though they were not doing anything inappropriate, the intimate pose still made Milo, as a father, instantly annoyed. Quinn quickly stepped away from Lennox, her cheeks flushed. However, she did not seem embarrassed at all as she smiled. "Dad, you're here." Milo let out a cold grunt and looked at Lennox. "Where's your father? Google search

If he wants to talk to me, then he should show himself, because I need to see some sincerity." Lennox grinned. "Relax, Mr. Avila. There's no need to be that impatient. Are you really here alone?" Milo frowned. "Of course, I came alone. And let me be clear first: if you want to marry Quinn, you have to pass my test. If you fail, you can forget about marrying her." Quinn immediately protested. "Dad, way to kill the vibe. Do you really have to say that? Lennox's feelings for me are real, and the ---- Grand Elder himself has approved of our relationship.

Marrying Lennox is good for both of us, don't you think?" Milo gave a nonchalant grunt, pretending it was no big deal. Though internally, he was overjoyed. The Elders at the Advanced Medical Institute never respected him, and compared to Corbin, who held all the power, he was practically a joke. Yet now that their families could be joined, he felt like he had finally landed a huge advantage. A mocking smile played on Lennox's lips as he watched the pair. He found it deeply amusing that these two were so blissfully unaware of their impending doom.

Quinn turned to him and said sweetly, "Lennox, my dad is here. Should we ask the Grand Elder to come and finalize things?" Lennox smiled. "My father arrived earlier. He's been waiting for yours." Quinn blinked and looked around in confusion. "The Grand Elder is already here? Where?" Lennox suddenly let out a cold laugh and grabbed her, locking his arm around her throat from behind. Quinn froze. "Lennox, what are you doing?" Milo shouted, "Lennox, are you out of your damn mind? You brat, ---- don't think I won't smack you just because Corbin is around.

Let go of Quinn!" A soft, mocking voice echoed from behind a rock wall. "Milo, your temper is still as impulsive as ever. Just because Jerome supports you, you really think you're somebody now?" As the sarcastic words faded, Corbin walked out slowly with two guards at his side, smiling like he owned the place. Milo still had not realized the danger and snapped, "Corbin, what is that supposed to mean? Since you already know I have someone backing me, then why is Lennox doing this? If he treats my daughter like this before they're even married, what will happen later?" Corbin scoffed. "Idiot.

Milo, you're still dreaming about marrying your daughter into my family? Don't you get it? You're already as good as dead." Milo froze as cold sweat broke out all over his

body, and Quinn trembled, unable to believe what she was hearing. "Lennox, what does the Grand Elder mean by that? And why are you holding me?" Lennox's smile twisted into something cruel. "Quinn, you have no one to blame but yourself for being so naive. Your dad thought a little strength gave him the right to challenge my father. ---- "You two are both idiots.

Especially your old man, acting like a mangy dog while dreaming about taking power in the Institute. Let me tell you, the Director's seat will always belong to my father, and anyone who blocks his way is signing their own death sentence."

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## Chapter 2676

---- Chapter 2676 Quinn finally snapped out of it and realized that both Corbin and Lennox had played her for a fool. Her face instantly flushed with rage as she demanded, "Lennox, do you really not care about my genuine feelings for you?" She snapped, "You treated me like an idiot, but what about all those things you said when you were sleeping with me? What did those mean?" Lennox leaned in close, his mouth right by Quinn's ear. He let out a series of sleazy laughs and said, "Well, it was only natural that I'd say the right things when I was sleeping with you.

Otherwise, Quinn, did you really think someone like me would actually be into a trashy slut like you? Those sweet nothings were just so I could get you into bed. It's that simple." Quinn's mind buzzed, and everything went dark before her eyes. What followed was an endless wave of hatred and fury. She cursed, "Lennox, you're nothing but an animal! Don't think that just because you're holding me hostage, my dad will give in to you. I'll have you know, he has enough support and doesn't fear you!" Lennox delivered two sharp slaps from behind, striking Quinn across the face.

The blows left her dizzy and disoriented, blood ---- trickling from the corner of her mouth. He snarled. "You worthless bitch, you're at death's door and you still dare threaten me? Your dad has some support, but you've already lured him right into our trap. Any minute now, my dad's going to finish him off. Playing your dumb-ass father was easier than breathing." Quinn burst into hysterical sobs, screaming curses while yelling, "Dad, run!" Milo had already turned around, trying to escape the way he came. However, the moment he turned, he froze, his expression turning extremely grim.

Behind him stood two of Corbin's men, both martial saints. Milo had only just barely broken into the martial saint level himself. In the outside world, he might have some bragging rights, but within a major institution like the Advanced Medical Institute, he was

nothing more than mediocre with a bit of luck. If it were not for that, he would not have even secured an elder position. "Corbin, so you really planned to kill me and silence me," Milo growled, his expression contorted with rage.

"But you won't succeed, because if my people realize I haven't returned, they'll come straight for you." Corbin scoffed. "Milo, you'll already be dead by then. And by your ---- 'people'... You mean Jerome? The only one who's worth anything? Sure, he might cause me a bit of trouble, but we both know that with Mr. Owen Senior backing me, I can clean up anything." He chuckled and added, "As Mr. Vazquez's right-hand man, Mr. Owen Senior is someone you should know very well." Milo's last bit of hope was shattered as he screamed, "Corbin, I can drop out of the competition!"

I don't want anything anymore; I just want to live my life out in peace. Let me go. I can make Jerome come serve you." Corbin's expression shifted with interest. "You can actually make that happen?" Milo saw the change and lit up with desperate relief. "Yes, absolutely. And besides Jerome, there's also a young man from the Lloyd family in Chetvine who supports me. He brought a whole group of elite fighters with him, and the Lloyd family even sent a mysterious top-tier expert. As long as you spare me, I can convince them to help you win the Director's seat." Corbin frowned.

"You're telling me the Lloyd family from Chetvine sent someone to back you up?" Milo nodded, half-pleading and half-threatening, "That's right. The Lloyd royal family sent a first-rate powerhouse to assist me. So if you let me live, I will bring them over to support you. But if ---- you kill me, you will never get out of this clean." Quinn quickly confirmed everything from the side, desperately vouching for her father. Corbin's brows tightened even more. After a long silence, he finally relaxed and smiled. "Alright, since you've laid everything out like that... [Google search](#)

As fellow apprentices, I suppose you can..." Milo brightened instantly and burst out, "Thank you! Thank you for sparing me." Corbin shook his head. "I wasn't done. As fellow apprentices, you can go ahead and die first. That's the message I meant to give you." +

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## Chapter 2677

---- Chapter 2677 The two martial saints behind Corbin suddenly sprang into action. With vicious expressions on their faces, they went straight for Milo with killing intent. Milo felt true despair wash over him as he let out an anguished howl, "Corbin, may you die a terrible death!" Quinn screamed along with him, "Dad! Let me go, Lennox! You

animal, you're nothing but a beast!" Milo fought desperately, managing to exchange one blow with the two Martial Saints. But then, a violent gust of wind came from behind him. Before he could turn around, a sharp spike pierced straight through his chest.

It stabbed through his back and went out the front. A couple of choked, broken sounds escaped Milo's throat. Then, he collapsed onto the ground, his eyes wide open in death. Those glassy eyes reflected Corbin's emotionless face and the spike he calmly wiped clean, the very weapon that had ended Milo's life. "No!" Quinn completely broke down, collapsing to the ground as she wailed, "Dad, no..." Corbin ordered his subordinates, "Throw the body off the cliff ---- and clean up all the blood.

We can't let anyone in the Institute find out, or it'll cause panic and unrest." Quinn's eyes turned red as she screamed hoarsely, "Corbin, Lennox... You heartless father and son! I swear I won't let you get away with this!" Corbin frowned slightly and said to Lennox, "Handle it as you see fit." Lennox let out a sleazy laugh. "She's just a worthless bitch anyway. She can't threaten you at all, Dad. Just keep her around for me as my personal toy!" Corbin replied flatly, "Don't go too far with it. Ms.

Owens is watching all of this from above." Lennox flinched and immediately backed away from Quinn, his face filled with disgust. "You're just a worn-out whore who's been passed around. Get lost! If Ms. Owens gets mad at me because of you, I'll kill you myself, Quinn survived only because of that. Milo's body had already been tossed off the cliff, and she cried so hard she could barely walk. Even so, she still forced herself to escape because pure survival instinct pushed her to get as far from Corbin and Lennox as possible.

---- Corbin made his way to the upper part of the valley, and the first thing he did was approach Lorenzo "Mr. Owens Senior, I'd appreciate it if your people could help handle this," he said. Lorenzo smiled. "Grand Elder, is it inconvenient for you to make the move yourself?" Corbin replied, "Killing Milo was already enough. But if I also kill Quinn, the people in the valley will probably criticize me heavily. However, we can't let this little bitch live either. So I'm afraid I'll have to trouble you, Mr. Owens Senior." Lorenzo smiled. "Don't worry. For more chapters visit [find-novel.net](http://find-novel.net)

Mikayla will take care of it." Corbin continued, "By the way, Mr. Owens Senior, from Milo's dying words just now, he mentioned that the Lloyd royal family from Chetvine sent someone to help him. Do you think we need to pay attention to this?" Lorenzo's eyes widened for a second before narrowing sharply, a cold light flashing inside them. "So the Lloyd family really sent someone. Did Milo say who came?" Corbin shook his head. "He didn't mention any specific names. He only said it was a young man from the Lloyd family.

Additionally, the Lloyd family also sent a higher-level expert to provide support. I'm afraid they might be at the martial emperor ---- level." At this point, Corbin began to worry as well Lorenzo swiftly decided, "We must be on guard. Even if we disregard Koda's side, we need to watch out for the Lloyd family's people." Corbin was surprised.



"Mr. Owens Senior, with the position already secured, is that really necessary?" Lorenzo snapped, "Grand Elder, you don't understand how dangerous the Lloyd royal family is. Even if their hidden expert is a martial emperor, I'm not afraid.

But I'm worried Andrew might come. That kid is nothing but trouble. Wherever he shows up, disaster follows." Then, Lorenzo suddenly froze and blurted out, "Damn it, Mikayla went to look for Jerome. If Andrew shows up and runs into her, something could go very wrong." Without waiting for Corbin's reaction, Lorenzo shot off immediately to chase after Mikayla.

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## Chapter 2678

---- Chapter 2678 At that moment, Mikayla had already followed Lorenzo's instructions and was on her way to find Jerome. She paused midway, organized her thoughts, and smoothed out her hair and dress. After all, a perfect woman should never let her guard down. Just then, she heard stumbling footsteps behind her, along with the sound of someone crying in deep grief. She quickly slipped behind a large tree and hid in the shadows. From there, she saw Quinn running while covering her mouth, rushing back toward Milo's residence.

The Advanced Medical Institute was huge, and every elder had their own separate area. Mikayla frowned, mumbling, "What's going on? Why's Quinn still alive?" She slowly tightened her grip around the weapon in her palm and stepped out, fully intending to end Quinn right there. To her, this little wretch had no purpose anymore, especially with her father dead. It would be better to send her off early and reunite her with Milo.

With a sharp swish, Mikayla threw the concealed weapon ---- straight toward the back of Quinn's head Quinn was moments away from dying when a figure shot out from the courtyard ahead of her. The person arrived in a blink and pulled Quinn aside in time. Mikayla's weapon missed its target and buried itself deep inside a tree trunk with a heavy thud. "Damn it," Mikayla cursed under her breath. Only then did she clearly see who had saved Quinn: Jerome, the former leader of the Southern Martial Union. Jerome's face was ice cold.

One look at Quinn's empty, devastated expression told him everything he needed to know. Milo was gone. He shook his head and sighed. "Ms. Avila, from now on, you're on your own. I can save you once, but I won't be able to protect you every time." Quinn's state undoubtedly confirmed Milo's death, and it really was just as Andrew had predicted. Milo, that fool, had gone and gotten himself killed. Jerome had never been

close with Milo, and he had only come to the Advanced Medical Institute to help Andrew scout things out.

Yet seeing Corbin push things so far, even toward Quinn, stirred the righteous side of him, and he could not just watch ---- Quinn be silenced. So he stepped in and saved her, but only this once. Jerome was not someone who hesitated in life-or-death matters. Many disasters in this world came from people's own arrogance and bad choices. Milo's death was the result of his inflated ego and wavering loyalties. He had already allied with Koda, yet he still sneaked off to meet Corbin because of a single letter and even dreamed of becoming in-laws with him.

He never realized Corbin already despised him. Milo gained a little support and did not bother keeping a low profile. So, his death was inevitable. The martial world was ruthless, and Milo, despite living in it for decades, never understood that. "Mr. Thornton!" Mikayla knew she was exposed, so she stepped out from behind the tree and gave Jerome a graceful bow, as if she had not just tried to kill someone. Jerome only spoke after watching Quinn disappear into the courtyard. "Ms. Mikayla Owens of the Owens family, right? What do you need?" Mikayla smiled sweetly. "Nothing urgent.

I just came to invite you to have a short conversation with my father." ---- Jerome shook his head. "Different paths, different goals. I have no ties with Chetvine's Owens family, so I won't go." Mikayla still smiled, clearly confident she could persuade him." Mr. Thornton, wise men know when to adapt. Milo was useless, and he's dead now. Are you really planning to stay here in the Advanced Medical Institute with no backing?" She added, "You're completely on your own. So why not work with my father? You can both get what you need.

After everything is over, the Owens family can help you restore your position as the leader of the Southern Martial Union." Jerome was genuinely surprised. He stared at Mikayla for a long moment before nodding. "Ms. Owens, you're truly impressive. Just a few sentences, and even I'm tempted. No wonder they say an apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Not surprising that a friend warned me you were someone to be cautious of." Mikayla brightened at the praise, but the last part made her freeze.

She asked, "May I know who this friend of yours is?" A bad feeling crept into her chest for reasons she could not explain. Jerome chuckled. "He's here in the Advanced Medical Institute, in the courtyard behind me. You should know him." Mikayla's unease spiked, and her voice sharpened slightly. "You ---- must be joking, sir. There's no one here that I know."

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## Chapter 2679

---- Chapter 2679 Jerome shook his head. "He's just staying at the Advanced Medical Institute, but he's not actually part of the Institute itself. Just like you, Ms. Owens, he's also from Chetvine." Mikayla frowned. She could not believe someone else from Chetvine was at the Advanced Medical Institute, and she had no idea who it could be. Just then, her phone rang. She glanced at it and saw it was Lorenzo calling. However, she did not answer because Jerome was right in front of her and she had more important matters to attend to.

She did not know why he was calling at this moment, but she felt it was probably not anything urgent. At the time, everything at the Advanced Medical Institute was under the control of the Owens father-daughter duo, and Mikayla did not think there could be any unexpected developments. "Sir, you said there's someone from Chetvine who knows me, and they're right here at the Advanced Medical Institute," Mikayla said with both wariness and skeptical amusement. She continued, "Then may I ask who this person is? Please invite them out so we can meet. Perhaps they're even a family friend. Content originally comes from

In that case, you should definitely come with me, sir." ---- Jerome gave a cryptic smile. "Are you sure you want to meet 'them? From what I know, he doesn't seem to get along with your Owens family." Mikayla stayed confident as she replied modestly, "Even though we're just a small household in Chetvine, the Owens family still has some connections and a bit of respect. So please, bring him out. I'm really curious who it could be, since I practically know everyone from there." As the heiress of a prominent family, Mikayla's confidence radiated at all times, and this moment was no exception.

She made it clear, subtly but firmly, that anyone from Chetvine should give her and the Owens family face. Jerome sighed. "Alright then, since you're so enthusiastic and insistent, Ms. Owens..." He turned around and said toward the backyard, "Hey, come out. She was going to see you sooner or later anyway." Andrew emerged from the courtyard with a calm expression on his face. "Mikayla, what a coincidence!" Mikayla was stunned speechless. In the next second, she suddenly backed away and demanded angrily, "Andrew? What are you doing here?" No wonder she had felt uneasy earlier.

She never expected the ---- person Jerome mentioned to be Andrew. Even though everything currently favored the Owens family, seeing him in person still made her tense. She hated him, feared him, and wanted to surpass him, yet she never realized just how much pressure she put on herself while chasing after him. Andrew did not bother sugarcoating his words. He said, "Whatever the Owens family is after doesn't really conflict with my goals. I'll keep it short: Don't get in my way. If you do, then I'm sorry, but the Owens family might lose everything." Mikayla sneered.

"Andrew, who the hell do you think you are? You think way too highly of yourself. Do you know that my father has personally come to the Advanced Medical Institute? Right now, the entire situation at the Institute has fallen into my family's hands." Andrew shrugged. "Not only do I know that he came to the Advanced Medical Institute, I also know that your Owens family's ambitions are enormous; your appetite is insatiable. With the chaos happening inside the Institute, I'm guessing your father's the one who orchestrated Mr.

Livingston's death from behind the scenes, right?" It was only a blind guess, but seeing Mikayla's expression, he immediately knew that he had hit the mark. Besides, Guillermo was behind Lorenzo, which meant none of this surprised him. ---- With Guillermo's terrifying power, scheming against the Advanced Medical Institute would be incredibly easy. Meanwhile, Koda, who got labeled as a traitor, had probably just been dragged into the mess as a convenient scapegoat. Andrew let out another cold laugh. "The one who really wanted the title of Director was your father, wasn't it?"

And Milo and Quinn were just being played in circles by you people. You tried to kill Quinn to eliminate all traces, while that unlucky bastard Milo has already been killed by you, hasn't he?" Mikayla's expression changed repeatedly. If she had not been absolutely sure Andrew was not at the scene, she would have wondered if he had suddenly awakened some supernatural ability to see the truth. "Andrew, what do you want?" she snapped, deciding to stabilize the situation first. Andrew was about to answer when his expression sharpened. He looked behind her.

Lorenzo was rushing toward them with a dark expression, followed closely by Corbin, Lennox, and the others. Andrew smirked. "The game's just getting started. Mark my words: you and your father won't get what you want that easily. Mr. Thornton, we're leaving!" ---- Without hesitation, Andrew turned and left with Jerome, while Lorenzo, Corbin, and the others who had just arrived chose not to act rashly.

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## Chapter 2680

---- Chapter 2680 "Mikayla, are you alright?" Lorenzo asked, breathing a sigh of relief. Mikayla shook her head. "I'm fine, Dad, but Andrew has actually come to the Advanced Medical Institute too." Lorenzo snorted. "That bastard... What the hell is he trying to do? Turns out I underestimated him, but no matter what he's trying to do, if he dares to ruin my family's plans, he won't get away with it." Corbin could not help but ask, "Mr. Owens Senior, Ms. Owens... Who was that person just now? If he's some nobody, we don't need to worry about him." Lorenzo shook his head, his tone complicated.

"He's no nobody. Have you heard of the Lloyd royal family's Dragon Prince from Chetvine, Grand Elder?" Corbin's breath caught as he asked in shock, "The Lloyd royal family... one of the Twin Dragons? You mean the Lloyd family's Dragon Prince, the one who fought his way out of Chetvine a decade ago?" Lorenzo nodded. "That's right, it's him. My family doesn't get along with him at all. We need to be careful and prevent him - --- from causing trouble." Corbin did not seem particularly concerned. "Even if he is the Lloyd family's Dragon Prince, this is the Advanced Medical Institute, not Chetvine.

He's all alone with no support; how much damage could he possibly do?" Lorenzo's expression was grim. "Regardless, we can't let our guard down. Let's go back. Wherever this guy shows up, bad things happen. Tomorrow's battle is crucial. Grand Elder, according to our plan, I'll secretly transfer my power to you. "Only by rapidly raising your strength to the martial emperor level can we ensure victory. But you'll have to endure the pain and pressure involved. If you can't handle it, everything will be ruined. Corbin said coldly, "Mr. Owens Senior, don't worry. This chapter is updated by

As long as I can kill Koda and take control of the Advanced Medical Institute, I can bear any cost." Lorenzo smiled, "You don't need to worry too much about that, Grand Elder. This power transfer won't affect you too severely. At most, you'll be weakened for a while afterward." Mikayla asked, "Dad, should we still try to win over Jerome?" Lorenzo sighed. "It's too late! Didn't you notice? Jerome is already Andrew's man." ---- Mikayla found it hard to accept. "How can that be? How could a heroic figure like Mr. Thornton listen to Andrew?

What makes him so special?" Lorenzo's face darkened as he shook his head. "There's no point in discussing it further... Let's go back. If I'm not mistaken, Andrew has definitely gone to join Koda. That's the only way he can oppose me. Unfortunately for him, he arrived too late. If he thinks he can play games with my family, he's got a long way to go." Mikayla gritted her teeth. "That lunatic is asking for death, interfering with my Owens family's plans." Lennox volunteered eagerly, snorting coldly, "Mikayla, don't worry. Tomorrow, during the duel, I'll find an opportunity to end him.

Who cares if he's the Lloyd family's Dragon Prince? In my eyes, he's just an insect." Mikayla looked at Lennox as if he were an idiot. "Do you even know what you're saying? Andrew is someone who can fight a martial emperor to a mutual standstill without losing. You're just a martial saint, and a newly promoted one at that. To put it bluntly, and I know you won't like hearing this, you're not even worthy of shining his shoes." Lennox was shocked at first.

"He's really that strong?" ---- Then, his face turned bright red with humiliation as he shouted, " Mikayla, are you looking down on me?" Mikayla did not even bother answering him. She simply turned and walked away. On Andrew's side, he, Jerome, and Eric immediately went to find Koda. Milo's death was his own doing. From the very beginning, Andrew had never counted on him to succeed. Koda was puzzled. "So you two are planning to switch sides and join me? I'd certainly welcome it. But knowing Mr.

Avila's temperament, I doubt he'd agree." Andrew smiled. "Mr. Avila definitely wouldn't want that.

But right now, what he wants doesn't matter. The main thing is that Mr. Thornton and I have nowhere else to go." Koda frowned. "What do you mean by that?" He was always somewhat wary of Andrew because he had an imposing aura that was hard to ignore. Moreover, he always wore that fearless smile. It gave Koda a disorienting feeling, as if things were spinning ---- out of his control.

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## Chapter 2681

---- Chapter 2681 Andrew said bluntly, "Corbin killed Mr. Avila. Right now, Mr. Thorton and I can only come to you, Koda. But if you don't welcome us, then we'll just go to Corbin instead. Since we don't have many options, we'll go wherever that welcomes us." Koda froze in shock, but he quickly exclaimed excitedly, "Milo is dead? Gentlemen, welcome! My strength may be limited, but if you help me secure the director's seat, then the reward afterward will be yours for the choosing." Jerome chuckled. "There isn't anything I want. I'll follow Mr.

Lloyd's lead." Koda instantly shifted his gaze to Andrew, feeling a chill run down his spine as he realized that even Jerome, the former leader of the Southern Martial Union, listened to this man. Moreover, with that Lloyd family's mysterious martial emperor expert lurking somewhere, Andrew's hidden power was truly formidable. Fortunately, he had not offended Andrew. Hence, he felt that currently, all the advantages were tilting in his favor. Andrew smiled. "Koda, since I've already come to your side, naturally, I'm going to help you secure the director's position.

---- However, the reward I ask for afterward won't be small, so you'd better be prepared." Koda waved his hand. "Just name it. Gold, rare resources, high- grade elixirs; the Advanced Medical Institute has everything. I can even offer cultivation partners or rare techniques." Andrew shook his head. "Those are nice, but they don't interest me much. The Institute is famous for its alchemists, and I'm not asking for much. Just let me take 20 alchemists with me afterward." Koda's expression changed, and he immediately refused. " Absolutely not!

The Institute had only a little over 100 alchemists, and the rest were apprentices. You know how difficult and expensive it is to train even one alchemist. You're basically asking for our entire foundation!" Andrew gave him a faint, amused smile. "But you just said I could take whatever I wanted. Yet now you're backing out. It seems your sincerity



isn't quite there." Koda stiffened, hearing the warning beneath Andrew's tone. His face darkened as he replied, "It's not that I'm unwilling, but 20 alchemists exceed anything I can bear.

You're draining the Advanced Medical Institute of its essence." Andrew grinned. "What else did you expect? If I weren't here for the good stuff, why do you think I'd come help you? Besides, ---- with me on your side, you're guaranteed to win. So, think it over. If not, I'll immediately switch to Mr. Easton's side." Koda sneered. "You're both threatening and warning me... But you and the Owens family don't get along, isn't that right?" Andrew smiled. "That's true. But what does it matter? Mr. Easton wouldn't mind at all.

As long as he can take you down and unify the Advanced Medical Institute, he can very well give me what's mine and give the Owens family what's theirs; no interference on either side." Koda fell silent. He could not find anything to refute in Andrew's words. Finally, gritting his teeth, he snorted coldly, "Fine, 20 alchemists it is. But Mr. Lloyd, I can only give you lower-tier alchemists. And you must guarantee that I'll actually secure the director's position. Otherwise, none of us will gain anything." Andrew snapped his fingers.

"Alright then, it's a deal!" Just as Andrew was about to take a step forward, a heart-wrenching cry came from behind him. "Please avenge me and my father. As long as you help me this once, I will agree to anything." Everyone's steps halted as they all turned to look back. Quinn was running toward Koda, crying desperately. Her pitiful appearance was beyond words. ---- Koda made a welcoming gesture. "Come on, you two. After tonight, we'll each get what we need."

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## **- Chapter 2682**

## **Chapter 2682**

---- Chapter 2682 "Quinn, what are you doing?" Koda asked. He already knew Milo was dead, and a mocking smirk flashed across his lips. He said flatly, "Get up first, and we can talk about this slowly." Quinn wiped away her tears and rose to her feet from her kneeling position. Looking at Koda, she broke into sobs again. My f-father was killed by that heartless father-son duo, Corbin and Lennox." She wailed and added, "Koda, you're the only person I can turn to now. You have to avenge me!" Koda replied, "Don't worry.

Once I destroy Corbin and his people and take the director's position, I'll consider that your revenge." Quinn cried out, "No, Koda, I need you to help me kill Corbin and Lennox right now! For that, I'm willing to give myself to you, along with all the inheritance my father left behind! I can give it all to you." After speaking, she looked at Koda with teary eyes while deliberately pulling her neckline open a bit. Koda's face filled with disgust. "Quinn, I don't need to spell out what kind of person you are. Normally, I wouldn't mind playing ---- around with second-hand goods like you.

But right now, aside from the director's position, I have no interest in anything else." He continued, "So put that act away. As for your father's inheritance... Aside from that little bit of money, I really don't know what assets he had. Everyone among the Advanced Medical Institute elders knows that he was the poorest and most pathetic of them all." Quinn's face flushed red as she said resentfully, "Koda, you're heartless and disloyal! My father came to you before, wanting to work together against the Grand Elder. I never thought you'd turn 'on us so quickly." Koda scoffed.

"You've got some nerve bringing that up. Your father sneaked off to meet with Corbin, thinking something good would come of it. He was planning to sell me out, wasn't he? As a result, he got too greedy and brought about his own destruction... Whose fault is that?" He gave her a cold, playful smirk. "Quinn, I have a proposal, and whether you listen or not is up to you. I'm about to go head-to-head with Corbin, and tomorrow will definitely be a brutal fight. "I don't mind working myself to the bone, but my guys deserve to be rewarded. So here's the deal: strip right now and serve my men.

If you make them happy and pumped up for tomorrow, I'll give you Corbin and Lennox's heads afterward. How about that?" ---- The moment those words left his mouth, Quinn's expression twisted in horror, and even Jerome looked disgusted. Koda's willingness to bully a woman with nowhere to turn completely betrayed any honor a man was supposed to have. Although Quinn was not innocent, Jerome was the type of man who would never take advantage of someone in such a situation. Quinn pointed at Koda, trembling with rage. "You're not a man.

You have over 100 men under you, and you want me to serve them one by one? You monster, do you think I'd survive that?" Koda shrugged. "Then don't. Go off somewhere else." He scoffed and walked away with his heavy sword over his shoulder. To him, Quinn had no more use, so he only wanted to squeeze whatever little value she had left. In her despair, Quinn suddenly spotted Andrew and let out a furious scream. "Andrew, you deserve to die, too! You promised to help my father, but in the end, you just stood by and watched him die! You bastard, are you even human?" READ LATEST CHAPTERS AT

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## Chapter 2683

---- Chapter 2683 Andrew's expression was indifferent. "Quinn, you seem to have forgotten that your father's death was entirely because of you. You were the one who wrote that letter to him, luring him to meet with Corbin. As a result, Milo, not being very bright, went without a second thought." He continued, "Actually, I did warn him at the time. But as the saying goes, good advice can't save someone determined to die. With a brain-dead daughter like you helping them along, it would've been truly bizarre if your father hadn't died." Quinn's chest heaved as rage consumed her.

"A-Andrew, I'll kill you!" Screaming, she lunged forward to claw at Andrew's face. Suddenly, a muffled thud rang out as a heavy sword pierced straight through from her back to her chest. The wide blade even tore open her chest and abdomen. Quinn finally spewed out a thick stream of blood. She glanced down at the sword tip protruding from her chest before dying with her eyes still open. Accompanied by a merciless snort, Koda withdrew his heavy sword and casually wiped off the blood. He spat, "Damned bitch, ---- how dare she try to attack someone in front of me. Don't bother with her.

I didn't even have the interest to toy with trash like her. Finishing her off directly was more satisfying." Andrew glanced at Quinn's lifeless body, then at Koda. His eyes narrowed slightly as he said, "Reckless killing isn't always a good thing." Koda shrugged with a grin. "Rabbits eat grass and wolves eat rabbits. People like us, sitting at the top of the food chain, are meant to kill and take whatever we want. Come on, let's head inside, drink, and feast.

Tomorrow's going to be one hell of a battle." Without caring whether Andrew would follow, he led his subordinates away with boisterous shouts. Andrew stood in place, his eyes somewhat cold. Jerome sighed. "She was doomed from the start. Right now, the Advanced Medical Institute is already in a state of paranoia and suspicion. Everyone is on edge. Yet when Milo died, instead of being afraid or finding somewhere to hide, she ran out here, making a scene and acting unreasonably." He added, "In the Advanced Medical Institute, where hungry wolves are everywhere, that's equivalent to seeking death.

You don't need to feel guilty; her death wasn't your fault." ---- Andrew replied calmly, "I'm not feeling guilty. But Koda killed someone right in front of me, and I'm sure you noticed it too. He did it on purpose. He's trying to show me he's not someone who can be controlled, and anyone who crosses him gets cut down without hesitation. Interesting." Jerome nodded. "Koda definitely meant it that way. But if the situation spirals out of control, we'll just eliminate him." Andrew gave a faint sound of agreement. "Let's go. We'll go in and drink too.

I'll help Koda win, but he won't be the one laughing at the end. He likes to kill? Then I'll show him what it really means to fight violence with violence!" Eric chuckled. "I can tell you're getting a bit fired up." Andrew said flatly, "No one kills in front of me without my permission, especially not to prove a point." In a quiet, secluded chamber, Lorenzo sat cross-legged with his hands raised, while white mist above his head grew increasingly dense. Mikayla stood nearby, watching intently with full concentration.

Eventually, she smiled and exclaimed, "Dad, your power has advanced even further in such a short time!" ---- Lorenzo did not speak but instead circulated his inner energy through one more complete cycle before slowly lowering his hands and opening his eyes. "Fortunately, I had Mr. Vazquez's assistance, which is why I was able to reach the martial emperor level so quickly." His tone was ice-cold as he said, "On this mission, our greatest trump card is my strength that surpasses everyone at the Advanced Medical Institute.

If things go south and the entire situation slips out of our control, we'll simply use force to control the scene."

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## Chapter 2684

---- Chapter 2684 Mikayla's expression grew grim as well. "Dad, you're worried about Andrew interfering, aren't you?" Lorenzo nodded slowly. "Yes, if this guy hadn't shown up, I could easily devour the Advanced Medical Institute without even lifting a finger. I could take the whole thing without breaking a sweat. But he just won't leave us alone. He actually showed up here. Without a doubt, he must be scheming something. So I need to be fully prepared." Mikayla growled, "Dad, I can hold off Jerome. And you can take out Andrew directly. Not many people in Chetvine know your true strength.

With Mr. Vazquez covering for you, it'll have an unexpected advantage; we can definitely make Andrew suffer badly, if not kill him outright." Lorenzo shook his head. "Unless absolutely necessary, don't engage him directly. Currently, our top priority is to achieve promotion to noble house status for the Owens family. As for everything else, we shouldn't make unnecessary, powerful enemies." Mikayla huffed indignantly. "Dad, are you actually afraid of him?" Lorenzo smiled. "Afraid of him? Not at all. With my third-tier martial emperor strength, I could even possibly kill him.

---- However, the Lloyd royal family backing Andrew isn't something our family can afford to provoke just yet. Mr. Vazquez has already dealt with them before. Above all, we need to play it safe. Only when the Owens family climbs to noble house status will we have the power to truly make waves." Mikayla smiled. "Alright then. I'll just wait to be the number one heiress of the noble house! When that happens, what will Andrew have to compete with me?" Lorenzo was in a good mood and was about to respond when his eyebrows lifted slightly.

He turned toward the door and said, "Grand Elder, you're here, aren't you? Come in, and I'll help you break through to the martial emperor level." The door opened, and Corbin walked in with an excited expression. He gave Mikayla a polite nod before saying to Lorenzo, "Thank you so much, Mr. Owens Senior." Lorenzo smiled. "Don't mention it. Mr.

Vazquez sent me to help you stabilize the situation inside the Institute, and once you take the director's seat, I can return and report my success." Corbin said solemnly, "You're practically helping me take full control of the Advanced Medical Institute. No

matter what you ---- ask for later, I'll give it without hesitation. I won't forget your help. Lorenzo replied with a meaningful smile. "That would be ideal. I just hope you won't regret it later." Corbin waved his concern away. "That won't happen. Without you, I would never have had the chance to become the director. And besides, Ms.

Owens and Lennox are doing well together." He grinned. "After I'm gone someday, the director's seat will naturally pass to them. That way, the Owens family will be the Institute's strongest allied force." Lorenzo smiled politely and gestured to the spot in front of him. "Then sit, and we'll begin." Beneath the calm facade, a cold calculation had already begun in his mind. The Owens family was not here for gratitude or alliances. They wanted the director's seat for themselves. This chapter is updated by

As for Corbin's promise of passing the position to Lennox, Lorenzo almost laughed aloud, There was no way he would wait for that Besides, with Mikayla's caliber and talent as a woman, did that worthless Lennox really think he could lay his hands on his daughter? How ridiculous! ---- As Corbin sat down with his back facing him, Lorenzo slowly placed his palm on the man's head. Soon, the power transfer began. However, Lorenzo's eyes were filled with cold, murderous intent. The ultimate result he wanted meant that Corbin was destined to die a miserable death.

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## Chapter 2685

---- Chapter 2685 Mikayla said, "Grand Elder, Dad, I'll step out now." With that, she exited the chamber. Lennox was waiting outside and eagerly rushed toward her. " Mikayla, I've missed you so much! Come on, give me a kiss!" Mikayla turned her head away, barely concealing the disgust in her eyes. "Lennox, we're right at the moment where everything is on the line. I don't think you should be focused on these things right now." Lennox was deeply disappointed and could not help grumbling, " Mikayla, why is it that every time I try to touch you, you pull away?

"Are you just pretending to like me?" Mikayla sneered inwardly, thinking that he was not completely stupid after all. However, she said, "Lennox, you know how I feel about you, don't you? If you don't, then forget it." Lennox quickly forced a smile and apologized. "Mikayla, I was just joking. Don't take it seriously. Mr. Owens Senior is helping my father boost his strength right now, right? It's truly unbelievable that he has such abilities." Mikayla replied with a sense of superiority, "This is just the tip of the iceberg.

In the future, you'll witness even more amazing ---- things from my family." Lennox nodded repeatedly. "Mikayla, no matter what, I'm going to make you my wife. Tell me,



what do you want me to do? What. will it take for you to agree?" Mikayla smirked. "Tonight, meet me at our usual place. When we meet, I'll tell you what I require. As long as you do it, from then on, I'll be yours." Lennox's eyes burned with barely concealed passion as he swore, "Even if I have to walk through fire, I'll make it happen for you."

Mikayla, I can't wait for you to be my wife!" On the mountain peak, the feast dragged all the way into the evening. Andrew ate a little and quickly lost interest. Koda's men were all seasoned cutthroats who lived on the edge, and men like them only cared about money, women, and power. They partied hard anywhere they went, and tonight was no exception. From where Andrew sat, he could see Koda's dozen personal fighters already getting sloppy drunk. Koda himself sat at the head of the table, his face flushed and his eyes hazy, yet he kept chugging on the wine.

---- "Come on, brothers, let's keep going!" he shouted. Raising his glass, Koda rallied his men. Below, the rough martial artists were all drinking enthusiastically. "Mr. Dawson, here's a toast to you!" And so another round of heavy drinking began. During the feast, several graceful servant girls moved back and forth, pouring wine and serving dishes. From time to time, they would have their backsides slapped or their chests groped. Even so, they could only endure it in silent anger. Jerome had already left earlier, saying he was going back to rest.

He had no interest in this kind of gathering. Eric sat below Andrew and sneered, "I really can't imagine how a major institution like the Advanced Medical Institute has fallen to this level. These people don't look like disciples of a great sect at all; they're just a bunch of drunken good-for-nothings." Andrew said flatly, "Human nature is complex, and once people lose their restraints and abandon their moral boundaries, the true nature they reveal is often cruel and savage. As he spoke, Andrew looked toward the entrance. A slender young man walked in with a stooped posture.

Judging by his hesitant manner, occasionally glancing up at Koda in the head ---- seat before quickly lowering his head again, he seemed uncertain. Andrew could not help but take an interest, watching the youth's every move. Finally, the young man seemed to make up his mind. Steeling himself, he approached Koda's side and called out in a low voice, "Koda." NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON

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## Chapter 2686

---- Chapter 2686 Koda was drinking happily when he glanced over and laughed. " Oh, it's you, Jovan. What's up? If it's nothing serious, grab a seat and have a drink with us."

Jovan Maddock kept his head lowered, his voice barely above a whisper. "Koda, I don't drink, but you guys go ahead. I just wanted to ask... about Mr. Livingston's funeral. What are we doing about it? Could you maybe postpone your match with the Grand Elder and hold Master's funeral first? Would that be okay?" The smile on Koda's face slowly faded.

What replaced it was a look of pure malice as he sneered. "Jovan, what did you just say? Say that again?" Jovan stammered nervously. "Koda, I was saying... about Mr. Livingston's funeral, could you..." Before he could finish, Koda's hand shot out and slapped Jovan viciously across the face. In an instant, Jovan was sent flying and crashed into the center of the banquet hall, blood trickling from his mouth as half his face swelled up grotesquely. Every eye in the room turned toward him, and the entire hall fell dead silent. ---- Andrew's smile only deepened. New novel chapters are published on find~novel~net

Koda raised his finger and roared with rage. "You little bastard, you've got some nerve bringing up that dead old fool in my presence. I'm the one who cut him in half with my sword, and you expect me to hold a funeral for him? Jovan, are you really that stupid, or are you just hopelessly naive?" The crowd of fighters below erupted into roaring laughter. One of the disciples of the Advanced Medical Institute jeered mockingly. "Jovan, I honestly don't know what goes on in that head of yours. Right now, Koda is the only one calling the shots around here.

The only reason you're still breathing is because you're the youngest, the weakest, and the most pathetic excuse for a disciple we've got. Just for bringing up Mr. Livingston, Koda should've split you in two on the spot." The threat hung heavy in the air. Jovan's face went pale with terror as he dropped to his knees and began begging desperately to Koda. "Koda, I was wrong, I know I was wrong! But Mr. Livingston raised us and taught us everything we know. I'm begging you... Since he's already gone, please just give him a proper funeral. Please? Or Koda, just let me go.

Let me hold a memorial for Mr. Livingston. Can't you at least allow that?" ---- His words only triggered another wave of mocking laughter. "What a dumbass!" "Who the hell is this loyal these days? No wonder you're completely useless." The insults kept coming. "Jovan, you must have a death wish. Don't you know Koda hates it when anyone mentions Mr. Livingston in front of him? You're finished!" Koda sat at the head of the table, his expression dark as a storm cloud. The murderous gleam in his eyes flashed briefly before disappearing. Then, he smiled.

"Jovan, you've begged me for this over and over again. If I don't honor your loyalty, people might say I'm worse than a dog. Fine, I'll let you go and hold a memorial for Mr. Livingston. But I have one condition: you come up here and use my greatsword to cut off both your ears, one by one. Do that, and I'll agree." As he finished speaking, Koda's twisted grin grew even more pronounced. With a single slap of his hand, the massive sword leaped up and plunged straight into the marble floor, slicing through it like butter.

Jovan began trembling uncontrollably, his eyes filled with absolute terror. Meanwhile, the laughter and jeering around him ---- exploded even louder. "Cut off your ears! Cut off your ears!" "Jovan, if you're any kind of man, do what Koda says!" "Come on, slice those ears off and give us something to snack on with our drinks. That way, you'll prove your loyalty to Mr. Livingston. You pathetic idiot! I can't believe someone this stupid actually exists! I'm dying here..." The mockery was relentless. Jovan was clearly terrified out of his mind.

Yet despite his fear, he began shuffling forward, step by agonizing step, toward Koda. "Koda, if I... if I really cut off my ears, will you truly keep your word?" His words came out with great difficulty, revealing the inner turmoil and dread consuming him. Even so, he still kept walking toward Koda, never once pausing, Eric glanced at Andrew. "This kid's got some real guts, doesn't ree

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## Chapter 2687

---- Chapter 2687 Andrew chuckled. "He is pretty interesting. He's actually the only normal person we've run into since entering the Advanced Medical Institute." Eric replied dismissively, "Even so, all I can say is he's asking for death. Sometimes, keeping your head down is necessary, Unfortunately, this kid's too naive. When you're surrounded by wolves but show you're a sheep, that in itself is a crime." Andrew replied flatly. "You're right. Being weak is a crime in itself. But not everyone can always maintain a position of strength.

Everyone has moments when they're vulnerable and helpless." Eric responded with cold indifference. "So what? Being weak, getting toyed with, getting killed; that's just the natural order of things. Being weak and stubborn, unable to read the situation, looking for death... People like that only get what they deserve." Andrew did not argue with him because Eric clearly had his own inner demons. Perhaps once upon a time, Eric had faced the same situation as. Jovan. Now, he has survived and grown stronger. Hence, seeing Jovan was like looking at his former self.

That was why he was angry at Jovan's death wish and naivety. ---- Andrew understood this perfectly. After all, he was once in a position of weakness before. Jovan finally reached the front and grabbed Koda's greatsword, though he struggled to even hold it, almost losing his grip. His shaky grip drew another round of boos and mocking laughter. The rough men in the hall were drunk, and whether they were used to brawling or worse, this kind of twisted show got them riled up. They cheered with wild excitement. Koda smirked. "Go on. New novel chapters are published on

As long as you cut off your ears, I'll grant your wish." Jovan trembled nonstop as he fought to suppress his terror. Finally, with great difficulty, he raised the heavy sword and positioned it near his ear. "Koda, p-please keep your word. I don't want... I don't want Mr. Livingston to have nowhere to rest in peace. I need to light candles for him. I want to hold a memorial." His voice cracked with tears as he clenched his teeth and jerked his head to make the cut. Yet, nobody noticed the flash of cruelty in Koda's eyes. His hand rose, aiming for Jovan's head.

He was not planning to let Jovan ---- cut his ears. He meant to shove Jovan's neck straight onto the sword's edge and slice it open on the spot. A few shocked cries burst out at once, since no one expected Koda to go back on his word so viciously. Eric growled, "That bastard. Looks like the kid bruised his ego, so he decided to kill him instead. What a coward." Just as he said that, a sharp rush of air cut through the hall Andrew moved. He struck toward Koda's head with a blazing Inferno Strike. If Koda kept pushing Jovan down, his own skull would have to take Andrew's attack.

Given Andrew's strength, his head would surely explode. At the last possible second, Koda pulled back his hand and met Andrew's palm force in midair. He was pushed back two steps, and his palm was bright red and trembling from the impact. However, Koda concealed it well, simply staring at Andrew with cold eyes. "What the hell is the meaning of this?" Down below, the sound rang out. Below them, the hall erupted with the metallic clatter of weapons being drawn. A sea of bloodshot, murderous eyes focused on Andrew. As long as Koda gave the order, they were ---- ready to tear him apart.

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## Chapter 2688

---- Chapter 2688 Faced with such an intimidating display, Andrew remained completely unfazed and even smiled. "Koda, he's just a kid. Why do you need to push him to the edge? Jovan, right? Get lost. Don't get in the way of us partying." As he spoke, Andrew shot a glare at the already shell-shocked Jovan. The latter jolted as if he had been shocked and quickly retreated. He was as pale as a sheet. Koda continued to stare at Andrew, his gaze still ice-cold. No one else in the hall said a word, and the atmosphere grew heavy with tension. Eric slowly straightened up with a cold grin.

If these men rushed Andrew now, that would almost be convenient for him. He could just slaughter the whole place and then pay a visit to Corbin and the Owens family tomorrow, wiping them out too. That was his style: kill first, skip the talking. Might as well slaughter them all. Then tomorrow, they could kill Corbin and the Owens family, too. Koda suddenly chuckled. "Your strike was pretty impressive." Then, he dropped

back into his seat like nothing had happened, switching moods as easily as a flip. "It's just as expected of ---- someone from Chetvine's royal family.

Come on, let's keep drinking, I wouldn't argue with some kid. I was just messing with him earlier. 'm sorry you had to see that." The men clinked their glasses again, the loud clatter echoing through the hall as they resumed drinking. Yet the air remained awkward, and anyone with half a brain could feel it. Koda acted as if he were all laughs and good spirits with Andrew, but the people who knew him, especially his junior apprentices, were already sure of one thing. Andrew was now on Koda's kill list, and the only question was when. Andrew stood up, excused himself, and walked out.

Eric wanted to leave, too, but Andrew told him to stay behind so they would not appear rude. Outside, the night wind was cool and gentle, The Advanced Medical Institute truly had breathtaking scenery, with spectacular views every few steps and endless landscapes stretching into the dark. Andrew walked toward the cliffside and spotted Jovan curled up on a large boulder, trembling with his arms wrapped around himself. ---- "Crying doesn't solve anything when you're trying to be a man. There are some things and some people you can only bury deep inside when you're powerless and weak.

And you have to bury them so deep that no one can ever see them. Sometimes, you even have to force yourself to forget the hatred that keeps you awake at night." Andrew hopped up on the boulder, gazing at the incredible night view. "Only then can you put everything into getting stronger. A helpless kid can only become a real man by growing stronger and pushing himself to the top. Only then can he protect the people he loves, and the people who love him. And not like you are now: fragile and clueless." Jovan flinched at the words, his shoulders trembling as he looked up at Andrew.

Then, he instinctively edged away from him on the rock. Andrew laughed. "Relax. I'm not interested in killing you. Otherwise, I wouldn't have saved you earlier." Jovan hesitated for a moment, his lips trembling. "T-Tthank you for saving me, Mr. Lloyd." Andrew crouched down, intrigued. "How did you know my name?

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## Chapter 2689

---- Chapter 2689 Jovan froze again, and only after a long while did he finally speak. "I'm Mr. Livingston's youngest apprentice. After he died, the Advanced Medical Institute was thrown into chaos. Mr. Easton and Koda both want the director's position." He continued, "So they've brought in a lot of outside help for support. And Mr. Lloyd, aren't

you one of the people backing Koda? Plus, the Owens family from Chetvine... I know about all of you." Andrew smiled. "So you must really hate us outsiders, don't you?" Jovan quickly shook his head. "No, I don't hate you.

I only hate myself for being weak. Just like you said, Mr. Lloyd, I'm not a real man yet, but I went looking for death anyway. If it weren't for you, Mr. Lloyd, I'd probably share the same fate as Mr. Livingston right now." Andrew asked, "Jovan, do you miss Mr. Livingston very much?" Jovan seemed to be taken aback by the question. Then, he scratched his head with an awkward laugh. "Miss him? I wouldn't say that exactly. Mr. Livingston never paid any attention to me as his youngest apprentice.

Even on the day he took me as a student, it was one of my senior apprentices who conducted the ceremony for him." ---- He continued, "I just remember that he was my mentor who taught us alchemy skills and martial arts. I lived under the Institute's roof, so now that he's gone, honoring him is something I should do." Andrew smiled. "Looks like you're pretty kind-hearted. So, would you be interested in becoming the director of the Advanced Medical Institute?" The sudden shift in topic startled Jovan so badly that his face went pale. He frantically shook his head and waved his hands. No way!

I've never thought about that. What am I to even consider being the director? At the very least, it should be Mr. Easton or Koda. Someone useless and weak like me is not worthy." His voice got smaller and smaller as he spoke, full of self-doubt. Andrew, however, looked very satisfied. "Jovan, maybe life will give you a chance. Let's just imagine this: if the opportunity landed right in front of you, and you could take the director's seat and lead the entire Institute, would you take it or not?" Jovan's expression turned serious as he nodded hard. "I would!

But not because I want power or benefits. If I ever became the director, there's one thing I'd have to do. Just one." Andrew's smile deepened. "Tell me. What would you do?" ---- Jovan clenched his jaw as something finally surfaced in his eyes: hatred and a thirst for vengeance. "I want to kill..." He suddenly snapped out of it and stopped mid-sentence. His whole body stiffened as he glanced nervously at Andrew. "I didn't mean anything. I won't do anything. I'm not capable." Andrew chuckled lightly. "Your restraint and caution aren't bad at all. New NOVEL chapters are published on

Looks like the chaos in the Institute forced you to grow up a bit. But Jovan, I still want to know what you're planning." Jovan shook his head hard. "I won't say it. I don't want anything." Andrew clapped his hands. "Eric, come give me a hand." Eric, who had already left the hall in annoyance, stomped over while cursing under his breath. He smacked Jovan on the back of the head. "Look what I brought you." Jovan instinctively looked up and immediately locked eyes with Eric's gaze, which swirled like water in a whirlpool.

In that instant, Jovan's eyes went numb and began spinning along with them. Eric's Phantom Mirage had already taken hold. "Tell me your deepest desire and your biggest secret." Jovan spoke in a hollow voice. "I want to kill them. Koda, Corbin, ---- Lennox, all



of them. They don't deserve to be disciples of the Advanced Medical Institute. They killed Mr. Livingston. I hate them."

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## Chapter 2690

---- Chapter 2690 Andrew smiled. "Now that's the honest truth. Looks like Jovan is someone who knows how to hold back and isn't just some clueless hothead who doesn't understand anything." Eric grinned with malicious amusement. "Let me dig a little deeper into his innermost secrets. Jovan, tell me the thing you've buried deepest in your heart." This time, Jovan fell silent, or rather, he paused for a long while. Andrew looked puzzled. "Eric, don't tell me your Phantom: Mirage is just this weak?" Eric cursed furiously. "Screw off!

With my current level, this technique can even trap high-level martial saints." He focused back on Jovan and ordered, "Jovan, tell me your biggest secret right now." This time, Jovan spoke. "I-I like Ms. Owens. From the day she and her father came to the Advanced Medical Institute, I fell for her. I've never seen such a beautiful woman in my life. She was like an angel, handing out cool stuff from the city to each and every apprentice. When she gave me something, my heart felt like it was going to burst out of my chest." Andrew and Eric exchanged glances and fell into silence ---- together.

Eric asked, "You think he's legal yet?" Andrew nodded. "Pretty much. He's got to be at least 15." Eric curled his lip. "No wonder. That age when you first fall in love. And wouldn't you know it, he runs into Mikayla, that master manipulator. A passionate kid like Jovan doesn't stand a chance against her tricks. If Mikayla told him to jump off a cliff, he'd probably do it without blinking." At that moment, Jovan, still trapped in the illusion, suddenly sounded dejected. "But I know Ms. Owens would never like me. I even know that back then, she didn't even notice me at all. I'm just a joke.

An insignificant, low-level apprentice at the Advanced Medical Institute who can't measure up to any of my senior apprentices. How could someone like her, a high-class lady from Chetvine, ever look at me?" Andrew patted his shoulder. "Get some sleep, Jovan." He stood up, ready to head back and rest. However, Eric still wanted to mess with Jovan and continued. \* Keep talking. Let me ask you: do you want to sleep with Mikayla? Don't you know that Mikayla's been hooking up with Lennox right now?" Jovan's face suddenly twisted with fury as he cursed.

"Lennox is ---- a dead piece of trash, a worthless scumbag who deserves to rot! He killed several of our senior female apprentices at the Institute, He tricked them into

sleeping with him, then killed them to silence them and cover it all up." He continued, "I just can't understand why someone like Ms. Owens, who's practically an angel, would fall for Lennox. The two of them meet up all the time at the edge of Bluewater Cliff. I've caught them several times already. "Every time I see Lennox with his arm around Ms. Owens' waist, my heart really hurts. However, the strange thing is that Ms.

Owens seems to need Lennox to agree to do something for her. "At their meeting spot, they've discussed a lot of shady stuff. Every time, I feel like Ms. Owens is someone I can't figure out. She seems so sweet and innocent, but the things she asks for are so confusing." Andrew, who had started to walk away, suddenly turned back around and asked, "What kind of demands is Mikayla making of Lennox?" Jovan shook his head. "I don't know the specifics, but every time they meet, Ms. Owens manipulates Lennox, and he follows through every single time. He was completely obedient.

I've eavesdropped several times. What she wants seems to have something to do with Mr. Easton." ---- Andrew's expression grew serious as he murmured, "Corbin? Corbin... I think I know what's going on now." Eric ended his control over Jovan and knocked Jovan out with a quick strike. Then, he asked Andrew, "Did you figure something out?"

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## Chapter 2691

---- Chapter 2691 Andrew immediately said, "It's just a guess, so it might not be accurate. I noticed the first day I arrived at the Advanced Medical Institute that Mikayla was already meeting Lennox in secret, and she was clearly using him. She just didn't say what she wanted yet." He added, "Come on, we're going to Bluewater Cliff right now, because there's a good chance they're plotting there again tonight." Eric nodded quickly. "Follow me.

I know exactly where Bluewater Cliff is." A few minutes later, the two of them slipped silently through the moonlit forest and reached the deep valley behind the Advanced Medical Institute. A beautiful spring flowed from the mountains and rushed down steep slopes until it formed a fast-moving stream. Above the rushing waters, a natural stone arch bridge rose over a massive drop into a bottomless-looking gorge. This place was Bluewater Cliff. Andrew and Eric circled around to higher ground and looked down.

Sure enough, they spotted two figures standing on the arch bridge at that very moment: Lennox and Mikayla ---- Lennox spoke with deep affection. "Mikayla, after tomorrow, you'll be my wife, right?" Mikayla responded shyly, "Oh, stop it, Lennox. I don't want to

talk about that right now. You did promise me you'd do one last thing for me." Lennox replied eagerly, "Tell me, please, just tell me already. Whatever it is, I can make it happen." Mikayla pouted, looking absolutely adorable. "Okay, but you said it. Tomorrow, my father is going to help the Grand Elder seize the director's position.

With the Grand Elder's current Martial Emperor strength, killing Koda will definitely be a piece of cake. After that, he'll become the director of the Advanced Medical Institute, the real person in charge." Lennox said proudly, "That's right. My father is about to become the director of the Advanced Medical Institute. And the next director after him will be me. Mikayla, as my wife, you'll enjoy the highest status and honor imaginable." Mikayla looked pitiful and vulnerable. "But that's not what I want to see.

Lennox, you probably don't know this yet, but our family has helped the Grand Elder tremendously. But today, when they were negotiating terms, the Grand Elder refused to meet my father's conditions. Honestly, it really hurt my feelings." ---- Lennox frowned. "Seriously? As far as I know, my father has been very accommodating to Mr. Owens Senior." Mikayla forced a smile. "That's just what you see on the surface. I only found out by accident when I overheard them talking... They were even arguing. Lennox, I can marry you, but first and foremost, I'm a member of the Owens family.

I can't let our family give so much and get nothing in return." Lennox immediately reassured her, "Mikayla, don't worry. I'll convince my father to give the Owens family 100 times the benefits and rewards." Mikayla shook her head. "You'd better not say anything. If you do, the Grand Elder will get angry. And if he gets angry, he'll know I'm the one whispering things to you behind his back. I don't want him thinking I'm manipulative or scheming." Lennox panicked and soothed her quickly. "Okay, I won't say anything. I won't mention a word.

Then, tell me what I'm supposed to do." Andrew and Eric, both locked in on Mikayla's performance, leaned in with sharp concentration. Finally, the manipulative bitch was about to reveal her real motive. Mikayla tugged Lennox's collar and spoke in a soft, sweet voice. "Lennox, after everything succeeds tomorrow, I need you to help ---- the Grand Elder... take a nap for a while. That way, my dad can get what he deserves, and everything will turn out perfectly." Lennox blinked in confusion. "Make my dad take a nap? You mean... drug him?"

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## Chapter 2692

---- Chapter 2692 Mikayla nodded and took out a small packet of powder before handing it to Lennox. "Relax, it's just a sedative mix, nothing harmful. Once the Grand Elder takes it, he'll fall asleep for a short while, and during that time, my dad will take what he deserves and leave the Advanced Medical Institute." She continued, "When the Grand Elder wakes up, it'll just be you and me. By then, I'll already be his future daughter-in-law, so even if he's angry, he probably won't dare do anything to me." Lennox laughed loudly as he played with the packet, completely unconcerned.

"I thought it was gonna be something huge. It turns out that all I need to do is put my dad to sleep so Mr. Owens Senior can make his move. That's way too easy! Leave it to me, I promise I'll handle it perfectly." Mikayla blinked innocently. "Lennox, why are you so good to me? Aren't you afraid the stuff I gave you might be poison?" Lennox froze for a second. Then, he scolded her gently. "What are you even saying? I treat you as the woman I love most, so why would I ever think so poorly of you? Besides, you're kind, beautiful, and smart. There's no way you'd poison my dad.

And don't forget, I'm a sixth-grade potion master. No poison can slip past me." ---- His smugness was practically dripping off him. Andrew, silently watching from above, shook his head. He thought Lennox was yet another idiot. Lennox was a certified fool. Sixth-grade potion master? If he could identify the powder Mikayla gave him, Andrew would get on his knees and call him his mentor. It was obvious that Lorenzo and Mikayla planned to use Lennox to take out Corbin, who had momentum and support on his side.

For Lorenzo, killing Corbin was not the issue; the problem was that the entire Advanced Medical Institute only accepted leaders like Corbin or Koda, people from within their own ranks. So, if the Owens family wanted absolute control over the Institute, they could not openly kill Corbin and seize power. They needed someone from inside the Institute to do it for them, someone easy to manipulate. Even Andrew had to admit that the strategy was solid. Corbin was not some disposable pawn; he would not willingly become Lorenzo's puppet.

Yet Lorenzo's current plan inside the Institute depended heavily on Corbin's presence, so he had to let Corbin rise first. Only afterward could he scheme from the shadows to eliminate him, while making sure no one suspected an outsider. ---- Andrew could already see Lorenzo's plan clearly: once Corbin died, Lennox would be pushed into power. Even if Lennox felt guilty or scared after poisoning his own father, none of that would matter. By then, Mikayla would keep him hooked with beauty and manipulation, while Lorenzo pressured him from behind closed doors.

Terrified of being exposed as a patricide, Lennox would have no choice but to obey the Owens family completely. It was indeed a clever plan. Unfortunately for them, Andrew and his team had already figured out every step. No matter how well the Owens family plotted, their scheme was doomed. Andrew signaled to Eric, and the two slipped away quietly, leaving Lennox and Mikayla whispering sweet nothings on Bluewater Cliff. Lennox had no idea that the happiness in front of him was built entirely on lies and manipulation, and the price for it would be his own father's life.

Soon enough, morning arrived. The entire Advanced Medical Institute gathered and marched once again toward the Grand Medicinal Hall. Andrew, Eric, and ---- Jerome accompanied Koda and his people, reaching the hall first, Not long after, Corbin arrived with the Owens family and his own. forces, their group moving in a massive wave. "Today, we settle life and death and decide who becomes the director," Koda said coldly as he set his heavy sword down.

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## Chapter 2693

---- Chapter 2693 Corbin, who was usually calm and collected, suddenly laughed like a different man. "Koda, for the sake of us being from the same sect, I can at least leave you a full corpse today." Koda's face remained expressionless. "Grand Elder, the fight hasn't even started, and you're already dreaming. Don't worry, I won't even leave you a corpse." Corbin snorted.

"All apprentices, fall back." Instantly, the lower-ranked apprentices cleared out of the courtyard outside the Grand Medicinal Hall, while the elders and elite disciples stood firm behind their own leaders, each side ready to pounce. Suddenly, two old men jumped forward, pointing at Andrew and cursing loudly. "It's you! Andrew, you brat! You're like a bad penny that keeps turning up! "Well, well! You sure hid it well, didn't you? So you're actually from Chetvine's Lloyd royal family!" Eric chuckled.

"Do you know these two?" Andrew had been surprised at first, but when he looked closely ---- at their sneaky eyes and matching goatees, he finally remembered who they were. They were the two elders who had hosted the Grand Medical Summit in Blumedale back then, Preston Fuentes and Clifford Phelps from the Advanced Medical Institute. At the time, they acted like big shots, and their strength completely overshadowed the families in the Gabo Creek region. But now, looking at them, Andrew saw they were nothing but small fry. After all, one of them was even just at Martial King level.

Andrew could crush him with a single finger. "So it's you two. Long time no see," Andrew said with a smile. Preston and Clifford shouted. "Andrew, we demand to know whether you're planning to interfere with the Advanced Medical Institute's internal affairs. Even if your background is sky-high, this isn't Chetvine. You don't get to act wild here." Andrew chuckled. "Alright then, both of you come over and bite me." He even opened his hands in a mocking gesture, as if daring them to try anything. Preston and Clifford shrieked in fury, but Corbin finally frowned and barked, "Stand down.

Neither of you has the strength to touch him, so stop embarrassing yourselves. The Advanced ---- Medical Institute isn't lacking in real powerhouses. If Mr. Lloyd thinks he can bully us on our own turf, then I'm the first one who won't allow it." Andrew shrugged. "Mr. Easton, you're at death's door and still so full of yourself. I truly admire you." Corbin snorted coldly. "The one at death's door is you. Mr. Lloyd, I thought you were supposed to be a rising star of the Lloyd family. Who knew your judgment was so poor?"

You bet on the wrong horse, and you're destined to lose everything." With those words, he shot forward like a tornado straight at Koda. Koda swung his heavy blade in a wide arc, his expression contorted. "Great! Bring it on!" In an instant, the two major faction leaders of the Advanced Medical Institute clashed. Their followers and supporters held their breath as they watched, terrified that their leader might fall. Andrew looked relaxed as he glanced across the courtyard.

Mikayla met his gaze with an icy stare, and when their eyes locked in midair, she started to say something Andrew looked away immediately, clearly uninterested. Mikayla's face darkened, and she gritted her teeth. "We'll see how you think you can take on the Owens family." ---- Lorenzo said calmly, "Andrew, what exactly is the Lloyd family planning to gain by interfering with the Advanced Medical Institute?" Andrew answered evenly, "This is my own business. It has nothing to do with the Lloyd family. The Lloyds don't care about the small gains here. But as for you, Mr.

Owens Senior, what exactly did you come for?" Lorenzo shook his head. "I'm only following orders. Keeping the Institute stable and helping Grand Elder maintain order is what matters most." Andrew smiled. "Mr. Owens Senior, you and Ms. Owens really are cut from the same cloth. One is a two-faced sweetheart, and the other is a holier-than-thou hypocrite. You both complement each other so well." NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON

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## Chapter 2694

---- Chapter 2694 Lorenzo chuckled softly. "Well, we're still better off than you, Andrew, charging in overconfident and not knowing your place. Mr. Vazquez asked me to send his regards." Andrew laughed. "You think mentioning Mr. Vazquez's name is going to scare me? Mr. Owens Senior, you really underestimate me. Let me make it simple for you: the Owens family isn't getting anything out of this unless he shows up at the Institute himself to take charge. If he does that, I'll pack up and leave without another word." Lorenzo only smiled and said nothing else.



Guillermo would never travel all the way here for something as trivial as the Institute, and Lorenzo didn't need him to. If he couldn't handle someone like Andrew, then he had no business being Guillermo's right-hand man. Koda's fighting style was vicious and overpowering. His heavy blade whistled through the air with every swing, each strike aimed to kill, and each move meant to crush. Corbin, however, moved sharply and swiftly, darting around as he attacked Koda's lower openings whenever he found a chance. That spot was Koda's weakness.

At the moment, the two appeared evenly matched, trading ---- blows back and forth. For now, it was impossible to tell who would win. There was still no clear winner, which was exactly why both sides held their breath. Eric said, "Lorenzo seems pretty confident." Andrew shrugged. "Corbin's strength has been forcibly enhanced. Chapters first released on

Right now, he's just holding back, waiting for Koda to make a mistake before delivering a devastating final blow." Jerome added, "It's exactly as Andy said, Even though Corbin is trying his best to restrain his attacks, the energy he's radiating already shows he's experienced a significant power boost. I didn't expect Lorenzo to have this kind of ability." Andrew scoffed. "Forcefully boosting someone's level like this isn't common, but it's not unheard of either. Taking Corbin straight to the martial emperor level, though?

That's nearly impossible." He added, "There's no chance the Owens family did this on their own. It definitely came from Mr. Vazquez." Eric asked, "Andrew, Corbin is already so strong, You're really that confident Koda can win?" Andrew smirked. "When did I ever say he's going to win? At this rate, he'll lose before 100 moves. And once those moves are up, Corbin will settle into the boost and stabilize all that violent ---- energy inside him. At that point, killing Koda will be nothing more than a flick of the wrist." Eric stared at him. "Then why are you still standing here watching?

Are you actually planning to let Koda die?" Andrew laughed coldly as something strange flickered in his eyes. "Of course, Koda has to suffer once. That's the only way we can get what we need. But letting him die for real? That won't happen. We'll still need him afterward." Eric pressed, "When you came back from Bluewater Cliff last night and met Koda alone, what exactly did you tell him?" Andrew grinned. "I didn't tell him anything. I gave him something. Stop asking me so many questions and just watch. We'll win." Eric clenched his teeth.

"Fine, let's see what kind of trick you're hiding." Jerome chuckled, "Eric, be patient. Andy's confidence and foresight are exactly what you've always lacked." Eric muttered, "He didn't even tell you. He's clearly not treating us as his own people." Andrew sighed. "You're too petty. Mr. Thornton doesn't get worked up over small things. He always keeps his cool." ---- Jerome waved it off. "It's fine. We'll know the truth eventually. I'm not someone who likes to worry.

As long as Andy has it handled, I can relax." Behind them, Lorenzo kept silently counting with one hand clasped behind his back. His lips moved in a whisper as he

murmured, "Five, four, three... It's time." Right as he finished, Corbin's aura suddenly exploded outward.

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## Chapter 2695

---- Chapter 2695 Corbin's aura suddenly exploded outward. His clothes rippled as if hit by a shockwave, and a confident, forceful smile spread across his face. "Koda, your time is up. Die!" Instead of dodging the heavy blade swinging toward him, he threw a punch straight into it mid-air. With a loud pop, Koda's sword slammed into a massive shield of energy. Koda roared and pressed down with all his strength. The shield burst apart as the blast ripped through the air. However, Corbin was already leaping high into the air.

He spun like a drill as he dropped down on Koda, attacking with all four limbs. Koda blocked again and again with his heavy blade until he finally slipped, his footing breaking under pressure. In that instant, Corbin kicked him square in the chest. He flipped once in midair and came down with both hands like crashing mountains, slamming Koda's chest again and again. Koda staggered back repeatedly until he had nowhere left to retreat. Corbin struck him so hard he was thrown through the air, spitting blood as his energy collapsed. He barely stayed upright by leaning on his heavy sword.

"H-How did you suddenly become so strong?" he choked, ---- spitting another mouthful of blood as disbelief filled his eyes. Corbin clasped one hand behind his back and laughed loudly, drunk on his own triumph. His moment had arrived. "I told you, you're dead for sure today. Koda, fighting me was your first mistake. You're dying anyway, so stop asking questions.

"I'll give you one last chance; cut your own throat, or I'll do it for you." Koda forced himself upright and roared, "I'd rather die on my feet than bow down to you." He raised his heavy blade and swung again, yet Corbin's movements flickered so fast that the strike carved a giant crater in the ground instead. Suddenly, Corbin appeared at his side and struck his temple with a palm. Koda screamed as his body spun through the air. "Koda!" his people shouted, rushing forward in panic. However, the moment they reached him, all the blood drained from their faces.

Koda was already gone, his eyes wide open, lifeless Andrew barked, "Why are you standing there? Get Koda out of here. We're heading back to Flying Peak!" Corbin stood tall with both hands behind his back now, his hair and clothes lifting even without wind. When he heard Koda was ---- dead, he could no longer contain his excitement.

He threw his head back and burst into wild, ecstatic laughter. "Mine! From today on, the entire Advanced Medical Institute belongs to me! Mr. [READ LATEST CHAPTERS AT](#)

Livingston, if your spirit is watching, I'm sure you'd bless me for this!" Lost in his own gloating, he did not even bother looking at Andrew's retreating group. Lorenzo frowned and stepped up. "Grand Elder, we should finish the job. We can't let them leave. Kill them all now to avoid trouble later." However, Corbin, riding his own high, waved him off proudly. " Mr. Owens Senior, no need to be so cautious. It's unnecessary now. With Koda, their leader, dead, the rest are just a pack of scattered rats.

"Instead of wasting effort killing them, I can just pressure them into joining my side afterward. This outcome is perfect, truly perfect." Lorenzo continued to frown, unconvinced by the plan. "But Grand Elder, we still have to be wary of Andrew."

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## Chapter 2696

---- Chapter 2696 Corbin was already drunk on his own victory, completely forgetting himself. He strode into the Grand Medicinal Hall, marched straight to the director's gold-backed chair, and sat down without a hint of shame. Then, he swept his gaze across the room and shouted, "Now, show me your respect!" Lennox was the first to rush forward and kneel while shouting in delight, "Dad, congratulations on seizing the seat!" The remaining apprentices and subordinates all dropped to their knees as well, roaring in unison, "Congratulations, Mr.

Corbin!" A few elders stood off to the side, looking abandoned and bitter. Among them were the two who had clashed with Andrew earlier. Corbin turned to them with a grin that did not reach his eyes and said, "Elders, are your knees stiff, or are you refusing to bow down to me? Or is it that you're harboring doubts and dissatisfaction?" The elders let out strained, miserable laughs before they each knelt in turn. Their chests were tight with bitterness and unwillingness, but they understood the situation far too well.

If they did not kneel, if they did not submit now, the only path ---- ahead was death. The Advanced Medical Institute was already becoming Corbin's domain, and that power shift was something none of them could fight. Preston and Clifford also got on their knees, grieving silently in their hearts. They thought that rather than letting Corbin and Lennox take control of the Institute, they would rather hand it over to Andrew. After all, Andrew was at least a fair person with principles.

Corbin and Lennox were rotten to the core, and they believed the Institute would face nothing but storms under their rule. Watching Corbin in the director's seat, basking in triumph as everyone knelt before him, Lorenzo's eyes grew increasingly cold and sharp. He had barely taken his position and was already ignoring his advice. He had advocated for immediately pursuing and killing Andrew and his group. Though they might not actually succeed in killing them, at the very least, they should drive him out of the Advanced Medical Institute so he could rest easy.

However, Corbin completely ignored his counsel and did not even consult him before directly ascending the director's throne and issuing commands. This made Lorenzo feel intensely displeased. It felt like raising a ---- dog, one that always obeyed you, only for that dog to suddenly hunt something on its own, turn wild, and transform into a wolf. It stopped seeing you as its master, stopped obeying you, and started doing whatever it wanted. No owner would be okay with that. Mikayla whispered quietly, "Dad, don't worry. I've already given Lennox the instructions.

If he can't pull it off or if he leaks anything, we'll execute the backup plan." Lorenzo remained expressionless but nodded slightly. He walked into the great hall and clasped his hands with a smile. "Congratulations, Corbin. You've got what you always wanted." Corbin laughed heartily and gestured with his hand. "Lorenzo, come sit by my side. You're a distinguished guest of the Advanced Medical Institute and one of my strongest allies. Don't worry, I won't mistreat a friend." Lorenzo smirked. Corbin was getting bold. In the past, he had always respectfully called him Mr. Owens Senior.

Now, he casually called him by his name, and that subtle shift said everything about Corbin's inflated ego. He would definitely kill Corbin. Not only because he stood in Lorenzo's way, but because he dared to defy him. Deep down, Lorenzo was an extremely prideful person. He felt ---- that he and Guillermo were cut from the same cloth. Top-tier intelligence, masters at reading people; true elites. The only difference was that his skills had not yet reached Guillermo's level. Despite that, Lorenzo felt he would very soon catch up. This chapter is updated by

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## Chapter 2697

---- Chapter 2697 With Koda killed, Flying Peak descended into complete chaos. Someone grumbled, "Since Koda's dead, what are we even doing staying at the Advanced Medical Institute? Let's just get the hell out of here." Another chimed in, "Exactly! If we don't leave now, we won't have the chance to leave alive. Once Corbin and the Owens family free up their hands, we're all dead." "Damn it! I never thought

Corbin would be so strong that even Koda couldn't beat him." "Stop wasting time talking! Let's bounce!" "The rats desert a sinking ship." The saying could not be more accurate.

Now that Koda was done for, they were ready to scatter immediately. Koda's corpse lay on Flying Peak. Andrew looked at Koda's lifeless body and said, "Gentlemen, now is not the time to leave. Whoever leaves, I'll be the first to make their head roll, and I won't even wait for Corbin to do it." The moment those words left his mouth, the entire hall on Flying Peak fell deathly silent. ---- Then suddenly, a cocky-looking Martial Saint spoke with disdain "Hey, what the hell did you just say? You want our heads to roll?

Do you even have what it takes?" As soon as he spoke up, the others immediately joined in with mockery and ridicule. "Who the hell do you think you are? You really think you're hot shit?" "We followed Koda, not you." "Chetvine's Lloyd family might be powerful, but sorry... We don't give a damn. What are you going to do about it?" Everyone chimed in, voices overlapping as they hurled insults and sarcasm. Several of them had even slowly gripped their weapons, their eyes locked on Andrew. It was clear that if he dared to say one more word, they would cut him down without hesitation.

Andrew chuckled. "A bunch of roughneck drifters, of course. I like your attitude. I just wonder if your backbone is as tough as your mouth." The man said coldly, "Andrew, don't you think you're being way too arrogant? I, Rusty Kuntz, want to leave. What are you going to do about it? Bite my ass?" ---- Rusty had a decent reputation in martial arts circles, particularly within the community surrounding the Advanced Medical Institute. He was well-connected, and most people respected him. He had come to help Koda because they were good friends.

Now that Koda had kicked the bucket, he did not think anyone at the Advanced Medical Institute could touch him. Andrew nodded. "Rusty, is it? Very good. Eric, teach him a lesson. Everyone looked confused, but they smirked with contempt. They all thought Andrew, another spoiled rich kid from Chetvine, was just showing off. Would a bunch of street fighters be afraid of him? Not a chance. Rusty put his hands on his hips and spat on the ground. "The hell are you playing at! Koda's gone! What can you do about it? Keep up this act, and I'll go join Mr.

Easton right now and come after you instead." Andrew did not bother responding because he did not need to. Meanwhile, Eric had already flashed forward in an instant. Rusty snorted coldly and immediately turned to face Eric. "Pretty boy, what do you want? Looking for trouble?" However, as he laughed, the smile on his face froze completely. ---- Erich had already activated the Phantom Mirage, and Rusty's consciousness was captured instantly without any resistance. Jerome calmly reminded him, "Eric, don't kill him." Eric sneered. "Don't worry. Killing him isn't necessary. New novel chapters are published on

But Andrew wants to see a show. Consider it done." He stepped forward until he was three feet from Rusty and said coldly, 'Slap yourself in the face. Keep going until your

face is swollen, then crawl on the ground for me!" Without any hesitation, Rusty immediately raised his hand and began viciously slapping his own face. Soon, blood was spraying from his mouth, and his face swelled up grotesquely, looking swollen and almost unrecognizable.

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## Chapter 2698

---- Chapter 2698 Rusty dropped to the ground. Following Eric's instructions exactly, he began crawling like a turtle. While crawling, he continued slapping his own face. Within moments, his entire face was beaten to a pulp, completely unrecognizable. This scene left everyone else utterly dumbstruck. Then immediately, they felt their blood run cold with terror. Someone gasped in horror, "Dark magic! It has to be! That guy is using dark magic!" "It's not dark magic, you idiot.

That's the legendary Phantom Mirage; it can control people's minds and steal their consciousness." Another voice trembled with fear. "Terrifying. This is absolutely terrifying." Their once-defiant eyes were now filled with horror. Andrew caught their reactions and let a faint smirk flash across his lips. "So, does anyone still think my words don't matter?" An old man spoke in a grave tone. "Mr. Lloyd, are you saying you plan on keeping us here by force?" ---- Andrew looked at him and countered with a question. "Force? You're giving yourself way too much credit.

To keep a pack of strays like you in place, why would I ever need force? If I'm in a good mood, you'll have a good day. But if I'm not, I can wipe all of you out in minutes. So tell me, can I do it or not?" The old man slammed his metal staff on the ground. "Don't push us too far!" Just as he said that, Andrew shifted nearly 20 meters in an instant. He struck the old man with a single palm, and the man barely managed to lift his metal staff before it snapped clean in half. Meanwhile, he himself was sent flying, throwing up blood as he sailed through the air.

"What the..." The entire crowd was stupefied. Everyone's Adam's apple bobbed, and for the first time, a fearful settled into their eyes. All their earlier bravado and mockery vanished into thin air. Andrew lowered his hand and said flatly, "I said no one leaves, so no one leaves. Koda isn't actually dead." The crowd exchanged confused looks, having no idea what he meant. Andrew did not explain anything and instead pulled out a pill, placing it in Koda's mouth. Then, he sat down, closed his eyes, ---- and rested silently. Eric finally stopped playing with Rusty.



After all, Rusty was still a martial saint, and killing someone like him would be a waste, plus Jerome had forbidden any killing. Rusty lay on the ground until he eventually snapped awake and immediately grabbed at his bloodied face. He roared, "Andrew, you bastard, what did you do to me?!" Rusty glanced around and saw his companions staring at him with fear and pity. Humiliation burned through him, yet he did not dare act recklessly. Time flew by, and soon half the day had passed as afternoon settled in.

Inside the Advanced Medical Institute, most of the disciples were busy decorating the place. Corbin wanted to celebrate his rise as the new Director, and everyone who supported him was all smiles. Up in the Grand Medicinal Hall, Lorenzo and Mikayla stood side by side, one calm, the other ice-cold. They were both waiting, because the moment the good news arrived, everything would begin. Behind the hall was the private administrative residence reserved for the Institute's director and a few key elders. ---- The place was luxurious, layered with ornate corridors and rooms.

Normally, elders shared access, but Corbin had kicked everyone else out. From now on, this space belonged to him alone, and he had no intention of sharing authority or rewards. Inside the room, Lennox helped Corbin put on a lavish ceremonial robe. "Dad, you should put on this emerald piece too," Lennox said with a grin.

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## Chapter 2699

---- Chapter 2699 Corbin was delighted. "Alright, put it on. This is the director's token, and only someone like me is qualified to wear it." Even the way he addressed himself had changed. Lennox let out a cheeky laugh. "Dad, how does it feel to be the director?" Corbin flicked his hand in a dramatic flourish. "One word, amazing}! Lennox, there's no need to rush. This position will be yours sooner or later." Lennox nodded obediently. "I'm not rushing. Why would I rush? It's just that Mr.

Owens Senior and Mikayla really helped us out big time, so you can't shortchange them." Corbin let out a cold snort. "Lorenzo did help me a lot. I won't treat the Owens family unfairly. But his ambition and appetite are way too big. Before this, I couldn't say anything, because I still needed him. But now, I have to slow him down and let him know that I'm the one running Advanced Medical Institute, not him." Lennox thought, 'Mikayla's right. Dad is being extremely harsh toward Mr. Owens Senior.

The Owens family has practically pulled us out of the mud, and without them, Dad wouldn't have ---- the power he has today. Yet now, Dad is showing signs of burning the

bridge after crossing it, which really isn't good." Lennox frowned. If Mikayla were not the woman he was after, he would have been thrilled to see his dad do this. But right now, Corbin had already gotten what he wanted, while Lennox still had not enjoyed anything he desired. Mikayla's pale, soft skin, her toned, long legs, and the teasing glimpse beneath her skirt made his throat burn with frustration.

The urge to release that frustration was getting unbearable. So, he could only follow Mikayla's terms and make Corbin compromise for now. He glanced at the glass of water on the table. Then, without much hesitation, he poured the powder into it. His movements were quick and natural, showing that this was not his first time doing something like this. Although before, it was usually his junior apprentices, senior apprentices, or those seductive female mentors he drugged. Back then, the drug was always something mild.

Lennox thought that Corbin would definitely scold him after waking up, maybe even hit him. Nonetheless, none of that mattered compared to finally tasting what he wanted. He figured that giving the Owens family some benefits was worth spilling a little blood. ---- If he secured Mikayla, then the Owens family would become one of Advanced Medical Institute's closest allies, which sounded like a win for everyone. 'Dad, have a nice nap!' he thought as he lifted the glass. Then, he handed it to Corbin. "Dad, have some water first.

Your coronation is coming up, and it's definitely going to take a while." Corbin casually took it, drank a sip, and chuckled. "Didn't expect you to get so thoughtful. You never used to bring me water. Looks like you're finally growing up. Or maybe you're after my position, so now you know how to play the game. Good. That's a good thing. Keep it up." Lennox's expression turned strange. He thought, 'Dad, you're giving me way too much credit. I'm only knocking you out so Mr. Owens Senior and Mikayla can get what they want.' Suddenly, Corbin collapsed onto the floor with a loud thud.

Lennox's eyes lit up in excitement. He was just about to offer a few polite words when he suddenly noticed white foam and blood pouring out of Corbin's mouth. He mumbled, "What's going on?"

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## Chapter 2700

---- Chapter 2700 Lennox's mind instantly went blank as terror exploded through him. "Dad!" he screamed, the sound sharp enough to shake the room. Corbin's face had

gone completely pale, drained of all color. His mouth kept spurting out blood mixed with foam, and the violent coughing nearly choked him. Corbin gasped, "T-The water... It's poisoned! You bastard, h-how dare you do something so unforgivable?" He tried desperately to lift his hand to grab Lennox, but his fingers caught nothing. His arm fell limp to the floor, and his eyes shut.

Just like that, he died without another sound Lennox's mind buzzed. He grabbed Corbin's body and wailed, \* Dad... Dad! How did this happen? It wasn't me... It really wasn't me!" His body suddenly jolted as he whispered, "Something's wrong with the drug... Did Mikayla mess it up? Yeah, she must've mixed it up by accident and made it poisonous." Yet, as he spoke, his voice grew hoarse. Lennox was stupid, but he was not delusional. There was no way ---- the drug had been mixed up by mistake. Hence, there was only one explanation: Mikayla had planned to poison Corbin from the very start.

That conniving bitch had used him! A wave of rage and hatred surged through Lennox like a tidal wave. His eyes hardened, and when he turned, he spotted a decorative sword hanging on the wall. "Dad, I'll avenge you. I'll kill those traitorous Owens." He tossed Corbin's body aside, charged over, and yanked the sword down. However, before he could turn toward the door, he heard rapid footsteps rushing in from outside. The next moment, a group of apprentices stormed in with weapons drawn.

Right after them came several elders of Advanced Medical Institute, and finally, the crowd parted as Lorenzo and Mikayla walked in. "Grand Elder!" one of the elders gasped The apprentices looked stunned as well Lennox opened his mouth to explain, but Lorenzo got ahead of him and shouted, "You animal, you're nothing but a vile animal! Even beasts don't kill their own. Corbin was your father! How could you... How could you poison him? This content belongs to

Even if you wanted his position and wanted to replace him, you shouldn't have been ---- this impatient!" His words caused an instant uproar among the apprentices and elders. "Lennox, you filthy bastard! Someone grab him and cut this monster to pieces!" one of Corbin's loyal elders screamed. About eight apprentices rushed to Lennox at once. He did not even have time to draw his sword before fists hammered into his chest and face. One brutal strike landed right on his energy core, and his face turned purple as blood gushed out while they forced him to his knees.

"It wasn't me, Elder, it really wasn't me! He was my father! Why would I kill him? It was the Owens family! That father-daughter pair are the real monsters, the real traitors!" Lennox shouted, his eyes full of hate and fury. However, none of the apprentices or elders listened. The loyal elder barked, "Hold him down!" The apprentices yanked Lennox's arms and legs apart into a spread-eagle position. Then, the elder stepped forward, his expression cold, and slammed his palm onto Lennox's energy core, shattering it.

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